

1986 lift-off for two TV space channels on BBC

By Kenneth Gosling

The BBC was given permission by the Government yesterday to start broadcasting television programmes on two satellite channels from early 1986. Making the announcement in the Commons, Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, said there would be opportunities in the future for independent television to operate similar services.

One channel will be run by subscription, the other by a supplementary licence fee, something the Home Office proposed but which the BBC made clear yesterday it does not favour. In the long term, it said, it intended both channels to be funded mainly from subscription channel income.

Viewers wanting either of both services will have to buy dish aerials and other equipment which will cost initially £250, a figure expected to drop to £200 when quantities are produced. The aerial, two varieties of which were shown at a press conference at the BBC Television Centre, will later be replaced by a flat metal plate fixed to an outside wall.

The Independent Broadcasting Authority, which recently made a bid for satellite channels, welcomed the prospect of public debate on essential broadcasting issues, including the question of whether the terrestrial channels would remain as good as possible.

This assurance had already been given by Mr Alastair Milne, managing director of BBC television and director general designate, who said: "We are adamant that we will keep faith absolutely with the viewers we now serve. There is no question of taking programmes off existing networks and moving them to satellite channels. We seek to provide additional services through a new means of distribution and the licence-payer will benefit the longer term."

In the Commons statement, Mr Whitelaw said he was vital to make an early start in an area of keen international competition. The initial two satellite channels would be increased to a maximum of five to be allocated in and when the BBC was justified. An announcement was made shortly, he said, about the future of cable television.

Mr Milne explained that on subscription television they would be seeking to lift the restriction, at present imposed on cable, prohibiting the show-

ing of cinema films less than a year old. They wanted to broadcast films after their first showing in the cinema. The channel would show orchestral, operatic and dramatic productions and live events not now available on any network—for example, an entire golf tournament or motor race. Sports were now limited to transmission times which could be given without restricting other coverage.

The second channel, known as Window on the World, would feature the best television from around the world. Although the Home Office wanted this channel funded initially by a supplementary fee of 1986 meant this would not fall within the current licence fee period. Mr Milne said they did not want the licence-payer to face this burden. Mr Bill Cotton, director of development, said satellite television was only a small gamble and he thought the numbers who would want to watch would bring a profit very quickly.

Television satellite channels could provide additional radio services, and the BBC said it wanted to explore this facility for digital transmission, perhaps of high quality music services.

The BBC expects viewers to obtain the subscription service with something like a credit card keyed into the equipment in the home to select the programmes the viewer wanted to watch; a new card would probably be purchased annually.

In Manchester last night, Mr Colin Shaw, the Independent Broadcasting Authority's director of television, said he thought some countries were unwilling to see their television services threatened by invading satellite services without putting up a fight.

Mr Jeremy Thorpe, the former Liberal leader, resigned as the director of Amnesty International's British section yesterday in the face of an overwhelming campaign to oust him from the £14,000-a-year job.

His resignation, six days before he was due to start work, will prevent a major split in the movement, although three of the section Council's 25 members have already quit in protest at his appointment.

Mr Thorpe's withdrawal follows a meeting on Wednesday with Mr Roger Briston, chairman of the section, who continued to support him.

In an exchange of letters yesterday Mr Thorpe told him: "What continues to astound me is that people who claim to believe in human rights and civil liberties should display so much pettiness and prejudice."

In reply, Mr Briston said: "I remain convinced that had you continued in your post you and I would have worked in harmony for the benefit of Amnesty International."

Mr Thorpe, aged 52, was appointed three weeks ago from 42 candidates. But after growing resentment among Amnesty's 12,000 British members and 11 secret staff, a move was made to oust him.

He survived this by 11 votes to 9 at a meeting of the council on Saturday. But the council agreed to sound out

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Preview

Chief of CEBB vulnerable

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Pym promises inquiry over 'spy' researchers claim

Baldwin must wait

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LSO/RSC Performance

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dea must £75m to rike bill

British Rail will get no help from the Government to meet the cost of the A&E strike, estimated to be about £75m so far, Mr David Howell, Secretary of State for Transport, said yesterday (Michael Bailey writes). It would be "quite wrong" for the cost of the strike to be met by the taxpayer, he declared.

He is authorizing a rise in BR's short-term borrowing limits of £40m to £150m but that will have to be repaid. Any overspending in the board's external financing will also have to be repaid by an adjustment next year. That means that both investment and operating costs will be affected, with extra job losses, cuts in services and delays in investment. BR said last night: "This confirms what we have been saying all along: that no one else is going to foot the bill for the A&E strike."

Keegan 'freed' for World Cup

Mr Kevin Keegan, the England football captain, will not have to appear in court during the World Cup. Mr Justice Michael Davies ruled in the High Court yesterday. He delayed until October the start of the action in which Mr Keegan is suing Public Eye Enterprises of Leeds for misrepresentation, and said he had been made to look "a complete and utter idiot" last week because he had been given the wrong date for the World Cup final.

Tobacco pact attacked

Labour MPs tabled a Commons motion last night asking the government to sponsor a tobacco pact. Mr David Ennals, a former Labour Secretary of State for Social Services, said: "The majority of people would now welcome a ban on all advertising of tobacco except at the point of sale."

A Thatcher at LBC



Miss Carol Thatcher, the Prime Minister's daughter, at the microphone. She is to join the LBC's commercial current affairs radio station, as a morning phone-in programme presenter, and she expects later to have her own late night programme.

Offer rejected

Union leaders of 90,000 power station workers rejected an Electricity Council pay offer of just under 5 per cent yesterday and gave a warning of possible industrial action unless a higher offer was made.

Hesketh fails test

Lord Hesketh, who launched a 1,000 cc motor cycle earlier this year, failed his driving test in a Northampton yesterday on a 250 cc Suzuki. He was failed for bad gear changes and riding too slowly.

Correction

Burke's Passage (Genealogical Books Limited) in our report on March 2, was said to be Baron Frederick Van Pallandt in January, 1980.

TGWU will not ask members in leadership vote

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

The Transport and General Workers' Union decided yesterday to avoid an embarrassing repetition of last year's controversial "consultation exercise" on the Benn-Healey Labour Party deputy leadership election by the simple expedient of not consulting the members.

The 37 members of the union's lay executive examined various options designed to extend political decision-making to the branches and the shop floor, but came down in favour of preserving the status quo.

The decision leaves in the hands of a left-wing-dominated executive the most influential say on how the union's 1,250,000 votes should be cast at the Labour Party conference when it sits as an electoral college to choose a leader and deputy leader.

Last year there was much political controversy after the TGWU delegation to the conference in Brighton cast the biggest block vote for Mr Wedgwood Benn, despite a regional "consultation exercise" that appeared to show a majority for his moderate rival, Mr Denis Healey, who then scraped home by a majority of under 1 per cent. After much pressure from Labour union leaders and some of his political allies Mr Benn is not expected to renew his challenge to Mr Healey in the autumn. But if he does, or if the strong left-wing candidate appears, there will not be another attempt to hold a branch vote in the transport union on the merits of the candidates.

The new leader of Britain's largest Civil Service union yesterday set in train a purge of Militant Tendency supporters after alleging they had achieved "frightening power" in many branches.

Mr Alastair Graham, general secretary designate of the Civil and Public Services Association, opened his campaign against the extreme left with a letter to members in the oppo-

sition's stronghold, the 8,000-strong Department of Health and Social Security branch in Newcastle upon Tyne.

In it he said: "At a time when members are facing a sustained onslaught from this Government on their pay, conditions of service and jobs, we need to keep a powerful, healthy and democratic union. I ask for your support to ensure we reject the ideological fantasies of extremists."

The first target of the CPSA moderate leadership campaign is Mr John Macreadie, a national officer responsible for civil aviation staff, (including air traffic control assistants), who is standing for the post of deputy general secretary.

Mr Graham tells his members: "I am asking you not to vote for John Macreadie in the deputy general secretary election. He was the 'moderate left' candidate for the general secretary post and was soundly defeated. But if there is a low poll in this election he could still be a serious threat."

He adds: "There is nothing broad about the leftwing in the CPSA. It is totally dominated by the Militant Tendency, as they 'bus in' their supporters to the official 'broad left' conferences which decide who will stand as leftwing candidates. They have become so dominant in many branches that active union members of all political persuasions have become frightened of their power."

Mr Graham, who beat Mr Macreadie almost two to one in a recent election for the union's top job, goes on: "I want to have a constructive working relationship with a deputy general secretary, rather than indulge in political bickering which achieves nothing for the members."

Mr Macreadie countered last night: "This is a typical smear campaign. It seems the wages to have a puppet as a deputy. Notice he never talks about policies, only about personalities."

European Tories to fight party list plan

By George Clark

The European Democratic (Conservative) group of MEPs decided in London yesterday to oppose the plan for the next elections to the European Parliament in 1984 to be conducted on the party list system of proportional representation.

The parliament in Strasbourg is under an obligation to put forward a uniform system of voting to be adopted in all 10 countries of the EEC. It would need the approval of the Council of Ministers and legislation in the national parliaments.

Next week the plan for a party list system, put forward by the political affairs committee, comes up for debate and vote in Strasbourg. The Conservatives, consisting of 60 British members, two Danes, and one Official Unionist, will seek to change the method of election to the additional member system (AMS).

Explaining the tactics, Sir Henry Plummer, leader of the group, said that under AMS three-quarters of the MEPs from each country would be elected in single-member constituencies and the rest would be chosen from a list, so that representatives matched the proportion of votes cast for each party.

Asked whether Mrs Margaret Thatcher and the Government approved of the group's action, Sir Henry said: "We all know that the British Government and the House of Commons as a whole do not want to change from the first-past-the-post system. But I think the Government would regard AMS as the least objectionable form of proportional representation. Also, we believe it is the only system which could get through the Council of Ministers."

Mr Adam Ferguson, Conservative MEP for Strathclyde, West, a spokesman for the group on electoral reform, said the AMS system had been favoured by the Strasbourg political affairs committee until last October, when the decision was altered, largely because of political group manoeuvrings before the elections for the presidency and other official positions.

Mr Frederick Mulley, aged 63, the former Secretary of State for Defence, was replaced as prospective parliamentary candidate for Sheffield, Park, by Mr Richard Card, 38, Sheffield's left-wing MEP, who had contested the reselection of a defence of national executive advice.

Mr Mulley told the weekly meeting of the Parliamentary Labour Party last night that he would not be lodging any personal appeal against his rejection.

Mr Peter Foot, area administrator, thinks the crux of the case rests on the relationship between the district administrator, who is close to the ground and to whom all complaints are made, and the regional legal advisers, who are further away and several tiers up the hierarchy.

Since the health service reorganization in 1974, area authorities and district management teams are under pressure not to hire solicitors but to use the legal staff of the region.

However, those lawyers see themselves as answerable to the regional administrator and not to the district administrator, who has to handle complaints. Consequently in this case, as the solicitor told the inquiry set up to look into it, there was little communication between the legal adviser and the district and area administrators.

Mr Foot added that although the authority was criticized for its discourtesy, the length of time the case took before settlement was reached was not exceptionally long.

The inquiry team looked at 11 comparable cases and found the average settlement period was about four years, two months. Mrs Brown's case took less than two years.

Mr William Darling, chairman of the National Association of Health Authorities, said all complaints should be dealt with as quickly as possible. "Where the blame is clear the authority should bend over backwards to be sympathetic and as humane as possible."



Record victory: Mr John Deacon, director general of the British Phonographic Industry, with some of the records involved in BPI's £250,000 action.

Record pirates to pay £250,000

The British Phonographic Industry is to receive £250,000 in damages for unpaid royalties on millions of records alleged to have been imported into this country illegally, undercutting their British-made counterparts (Christopher Warman writes).

The out-of-court settlement comes after a series of High Court actions against Simons Records, imported from Portugal. The BPI tried to show that these albums were counterfeit, but the defendants maintained that they were genuine, and the settlement in respect of these records was made without any admission of liability.

During the action it was established that Simons Records, one of the country's largest wholesale record importers, had brought about 2,500,000 parallel imports into Britain from Portugal by last spring.

The other main action concerned the importation from Canada via Holland of albums on the Chrysalis, CBS and BBC labels by artists including Blondie, Abba and the Not the Nine O'Clock News team.

The defendants also gave undertakings not to import records sent from their non-EEC country of origin to Holland, where copyright laws are less stringent.

One of the actions was brought by Mowtown Records over albums featuring Stevie Wonder, Diana Ross and the Commodores, imported from Portugal. The BPI tried to show that these albums were counterfeit, but the defendants maintained that they were genuine, and the settlement in respect of these records was made without any admission of liability.

Health service defends record on complaints

By Annabel Ferriman, Health Services Correspondent

Health service administrators denied yesterday that the handling of the case of Mrs Carol Brown, who was paralysed by a pain-killing injection given during labour, was in any way typical of the health service as a whole.

Mr David Kenny, president of the Institute of Health Service Administrators, said the service had laid down clear guidelines on handling complaints and had a better record than most nationalized industries or hospitals in West Europe.

The guidelines lay down that all letters of complaint should be immediately acknowledged, and if no satisfactory explanation can be provided within two weeks a letter explaining the delay should be sent.

All letters of complaint have to be logged and most authorities have a system of monitoring them.

So what went wrong in the case of Merton, Sutton and Wandsworth Area Health Authority, which had to pay record damages of £414,563 to Mrs Brown and was criticized by a High Court judge for its "scandalous" handling of the case?

Mr Peter Foot, area administrator, thinks the crux of the case rests on the relationship between the district administrator, who is close to the ground and to whom all complaints are made, and the regional legal advisers, who are further away and several tiers up the hierarchy.

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Mr William Darling, chairman of the National Association of Health Authorities, said all complaints should be dealt with as quickly as possible. "Where the blame is clear the authority should bend over backwards to be sympathetic and as humane as possible."

This could prove fatal to the British section and unhelpful to the international movement. Having worked for both, I would be the last person who would wish this to happen. What continues to amaze me is that people who claim to believe in human rights and civil liberties should display so much pettiness and prejudice.

It has therefore decided that it is in the best interests of Amnesty that I withdraw as director. In doing so, I want to make clear that my support for the aims of Amnesty remains undiminished.

Finally, may I pay tribute to your courage, courtesy, support and sense of fair play throughout this sorry affair. I wish you well in giving leadership to the British section, which they so badly need.

Yours ever, Jeremy.

Mr Briotter replied in a letter to Mr Thorpe: "Dear Jeremy, I thank you for your letter informing me of your intention to withdraw as director of the British section. This is a decision which, naturally, I regret. As you point out, you were appointed by the council by a large majority, and a recent attempt to reverse this original decision was unsuccessful."

Therefore, in the circumstances, I regard your decision to withdraw as being inspired by your high regard for the aims of Amnesty International, an organization which you know well, and have served in the past.

I am convinced that the membership of the British section will appreciate at its high value the decision which you have taken in the interests of a movement devoted to the defence of human rights.

Lastly, I wish to thank you for your encouragement and support. I remain convinced that had you continued in your post you and I would have worked in harmony for the benefit of Amnesty International.

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Thousands of teachers to go by 1985

By Diana Geddes, Education Correspondent

Government spending plans to be published in a White Paper on Tuesday call for a reduction of 38,000 full-time teachers' jobs in England by 1984-85, representing a 9 per cent cut, while pupil numbers are due to fall by only 8 per cent over the same period.

The average pupil-teacher ratio for primary and secondary schools will thus rise from 18.56:1 last January to 18.74:1 in January, 1985. Yet it is generally agreed that the number of teachers needs to fall rather less than the number of pupils if school standards are to be maintained.

The Government intends to maintain the planned cuts up to 1983-84, but proposes to make no further cuts in 1984-85. The White Paper will not make that clear, however, as the education expenditure figures have been lumped together with those for non-advanced further education.

Comparisons of spending levels between years for any service will be more difficult than in the past because all the figures in the White Paper will be in cash terms, including an allowance for assumed level of inflation, rather than in real terms as in the past.

The Government has estimated that the level of inflation next year will be 4 per cent for pay and 9 per cent for prices, or 6 per cent overall, going down to 5 per cent in 1983-84 and 4 per cent the next year.

Schoolmasters plan industrial action

The executive of Britain's second largest teachers' union is expected to approve today industrial action for its 124,000 members which will affect thousands of school from next Thursday (the Press Association reports).

The National Association of Schoolmasters' Union of Women Teachers' executive considered a resolution to withdraw completely from weekday meals and school supervision and staff and parents meetings outside school hours.

On Wednesday pay talks broke down. They affect 450,000 teachers in England and Wales. The management side refused to improve its 3.4 per cent offer in response to the union claim for a 22.12 per cent rise. It also rejected the teachers' call for arbitration.

The NAS/UTW move was decided at a union action committee meeting in Birmingham yesterday. Mr Terence Casey, the general secretary, has given local education authorities 48 hours' notice so that they can make arrangements for lunch-time suspension.

Leaders of the National Society of Operative Printers, Graphical and Media Personnel decided yesterday to defer approval of any job reduction agreements between local union officials and Times Newspapers until there is a clearer picture of negotiations throughout the company.

The union's executive discussed the London machine branch committee's refusal to back an understanding reached with the company by the night machine branch (office branch) at the Sunday Times for a reduction of 168 shifts. No decision was made, but the understanding is likely to be approved eventually, despite the branch's opposition.

Talks with officials of the Natopso clerical chapel, where 210 employees have been sent compulsory redundancy notices, continued but the management maintained its refusal to confirm claims that the overall total job cuts being

asked of them had been reduced from 330 to 225.

The management also refused to say how many clerical workers have volunteered for redundancy. The company had said that if sufficient numbers came forward by last Wednesday, the compulsory notices would be lifted.

The National Graphical Association, the Society of Graphical and Allied Trades and the National Union of Journalists were also involved in negotiations yesterday. Some progress was said by the management to have been made with the first two unions.

Mr Noel Howell, Fleet Street officer for the NUJ, said the union had no clear idea what the company's intentions were toward the journalists. The company originally said that it wanted 35 volunteers for redundancy among the editorial staff.

Mr Rupert Murdoch, TNL chairman, is expected back in London this morning after a short visit to New York.

PLEDGE BY THATCHER QUERIED

By Pat Healy, Social Minister to protect pensioners against inflation is threatened by the proposed new formula for raising supplementary benefits, Mr Jeffrey Rooker MP for Birmingham, Perry Barr, and Labour spokesman for social security, told the Commons yesterday.

During business questions he urged Mr Francis Pym, Leader of the House, to take steps to ensure that there is no confusion about the issue after next week's Budget.

Mr Rooker raised the same point in more detail yesterday during the final sitting of the Commons Standing Committee on the Social Security and Housing Benefits Bill.

It was during the committee's session on Tuesday that Mr Hugh Rossi, Minister for Social Security, announced the new formula which would exclude housing costs from the retail price index and is expected to lead to lower increases in supplementary benefits in November.

Mr Rooker quoted several ministerial statements including one from Mr Rossi, which all specified supplementary pensions as one of the benefits covered by the Prime Minister's pledge to protect long-term benefits from inflation.

Yours sincerely, Roget.

The giant salamander that cries like a baby

By Tony Samstag

Only rarely do primary reports on natural history and conservation in China appear in the West. An article on a species of giant salamander in the current issue of *Oryx*, the journal of the Fauna and Flora Preservation Society, describes the largest known amphibian. It can grow to 180cm in length and weigh up to 65kg, about the size and weight of a gorilla, and is called "baby fish" by the Chinese because its cry resembles that of an infant.

The amphibians flourished when the Earth consisted of a single continent, Pangaea, about 200 million years ago. Huang Zhijian writes. At that time Cryptobranchid salamanders were more widely distributed. When Pangaea split apart into plates, these drifted further and further from one another and became separated by changes in geography and climatic conditions, many Cryptobranchid species, like other animals, were eliminated through natural selection. The giant salamander, however, survived in the eastern United States.

Megaloobatrachus davidianus is the most widely distributed, occurring in the tributaries of the Yangtze, Yellow and Pearl rivers across 17 provinces and regions.

These salamanders are usually solitary, living in fast clear mountain streams, 200 to 1,000 metres above sea level. The adults are lazy and inactive, but temperamental, snapping at each other during the night. The author quotes a Sichuan proverb: "The baby fish sits on shore, and delights in eating what comes his way." That includes crabs and frogs, mainly, supplemented by fish, shrimp, snakes, aquatic insects, young turtles, water rats and plant residues. The young are herbivorous until they are about two years old. Adults can survive without food for a year. "The flesh is delicious and nourishing and also has medicinal value."

Although the species is nominally protected in China, the author recommends stricter legal safeguards on breeding populations and encouragement of captive breeding programmes.

Source: *The Chinese Salamander* (Huang Zhijian, Department of Vertebrate Zoology, Institute of Zoology, Academia Sinica, Zhong Guan Cun, Beijing). *Oryx* (vol 20 no 3), Fauna Flora Preservation Society, c/o Zoological Society of London, Regent's Park, London NW1 4RY.

One 'Times' union puts off decision on jobs

By Our Labour Staff

Leaders of the National Society of Operative Printers, Graphical and Media Personnel decided yesterday to defer approval of any job reduction agreements between local union officials and Times Newspapers until there is a clearer picture of negotiations throughout the company.

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Yours sincerely, Roget.

MARRIAGE ENABLING BILLS READ

By Hugh Noyes, Parliamentary Correspondent

Two personal Bills were given a second reading in the Lords yesterday enabling marriages to take place of couples related by marriage but not by blood.

The decision of the Archbishop of Canterbury Dr Runcie to set up a committee to advise him on these matters and seek an alternative to the personal Bill procedure was warmly welcomed.

The two Bills before the House represent the third occasion in the past three years on which personal legislation has been introduced to resolve marital difficulties.

The first of yesterday's marriages enabling Bills would allow Mr John Dare, aged 66, to marry his stepdaughter, Gillian Loder Dare, aged 49.

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Overseas selling prices

WARNING

National Panasonic (UK) Ltd. COUNTERFEIT VIDEO CASSETTE TAPES

We have become aware that quantities of counterfeit video cassette tapes bearing the brand name "Panasonic" are circulating throughout the UK.

Although the packaging and design is well copied, the quality of tape is of a substantially inferior standard.

In their own interest, consumers are most strongly urged to buy Panasonic Video Cassette tapes Only from our network of Authorised Dealers.

Panasonic National Technics

Volunteers queue to join Home Guard

By Henry Stanhope, Defence Correspondent

The Army spent much of yesterday dealing with hundreds of inquiries from people anxious to join Britain's new Home Guard when it re-emerges in the autumn.

From farm and lane and mill they came to district headquarters, TA centres, recruiting offices and even the Ministry of Defence, only to be asked to bide their time until September 1, when four pilot companies will be formed at Perth, Birmingham, Bury St Edmunds, and one for the South-east at Reading, Portsmouth, and Maidenhead.

The Army was happy with the public reaction,

Ousted RSPCA man says he was a scapegoat

By John Young

Two of the three senior officials of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) who were summarily dismissed on Wednesday yesterday complained of intrigue and excessive secrecy in the society's council.

Mr Julian Hopkins, the £22,000-a-year executive director, said the dismissal letter had come as a bombshell. Mr James Clyde, the financial controller, who earned £18,000, said he was still in a state of shock.

Mr Harry Gape, the society's inspectorate controller, the third official, was not available for comment.

Mr Hopkins said it appeared that Mr Anselm Hart, the society's chairman, and Mrs Rachel Smith, its treasurer, who recently held an investigation into staff complaints of extravagance, had been looking for scapegoats.

Neither he nor his colleagues had been allowed to see their report or to challenge its findings. It was the job of paid officials to implement the society's policies, but a number of radical members of the council had for some

time been seeking to discredit them.

Mr Hopkins, who lives in a house rented from the society, said he had not yet decided whether to claim wrongful dismissal at an industrial tribunal. He had a right to be told the reasons for his dismissal within a fortnight, after which he would take legal advice.

Mr Clyde said that the notices were handed to Mr Hopkins and himself at about 4.30pm on Wednesday after a six-hour meeting of the council. Mr Gape was informed orally at the same time that he was redundant.

Mr Clyde said: "The letter informing me that my contract was at an end had been typed the day before. I was told I must not come back to the building. When I asked the chairman for the reason he said the council had no confidence in me."

"We are three fairly strong, outspoken people, and we have quite clearly been undermined. I am afraid it is a sign of what the council has been doing for a long time now, making decisions in a vacuum."

Mr Clude said that he had

found a padlock on his office door yesterday morning, and a man outside Mr Hopkins's office with instructions to prevent even his secretary from entering.

The society yesterday would make no official comment. However, it was suggested that the investigation by Mr Hart and Mrs Smith was response to low morale among staff.

The dismissals are likely to be seen as another episode in the long struggle for power within the world's oldest and most famous animal welfare organization.

The basic disagreement, though, there are endless ramifications, is between the conservative establishment, referred to derisively as "the cat and dog brigade", and those who want to see the society take a less equivocal attitude on such matters as hunting and shooting.

The subject of animal welfare is becoming increasingly political, and people such as Mr Hopkins, who are identified with the conservative wing, have been accused of trying to influence the society's policies.

Europe ban on seal cull sought

By Tony Samstag

Opposition to the annual Canadian seal hunt, a ritual as regular as the hunt itself, reached a crescendo yesterday with the announcement by Mr Stanley Johnson, Conservative MEP for East Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, that he and a dozen colleagues are to ask the European Parliament next Thursday to ban "products coming from seals whose stocks are depleted or threatened".

A petition calling for a ban on the importation of seal-skins was delivered to the Prime Minister by animal welfare campaigners, led by Mr Terence Duffy, president of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers. The petition, it was claimed, represented 12 million trade unionists.

Mr Johnson, who returned yesterday from a fact-finding trip to the Magdalen Islands, in the Gulf of St Lawrence, said: "I have been able to witness on the ice floes the arrival of thousands of harp seals which, together with seals in the 'front ice' off the Newfoundland coast, make

up the Northwest Atlantic herd."

"These seals have travelled thousands of miles from the Arctic to reach their breeding grounds. The pupping has begun and the females are congregating on the whale-patched patches with their white-coated pups beside them."

About 200,000 harp and hooded seals are to be taken in this year's hunt, due to begin in the next few days. For the first time the conservationist lobby is represented in what traditionally had been seen as an animal welfare issue.

Seal pups are hunted for their thick white or blue fur, which they lose several weeks after birth. The traditional culling method of clubbing them to death in order to minimize skin damage has been denounced by animal welfare groups as inhumane, despite government supervision intended to ensure that the pups are unconscious or dead before they are skinned.

The conservationist view, as argued yesterday by Dr Sydney Holt, chairman of the

Marine Mammals Committee of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, is that data are lacking on whether the seal populations concerned are stable.

That view is shared by such organizations as the World Wildlife Fund (the public relations agency of IUCN) and by the government.

The 63-member group of European Democratic (Conservative) MPs decided in London yesterday to have a free vote when the European Parliament next week votes on a proposal that all EEC countries should ban imports of harp and hooded seal products (George Clark writes).

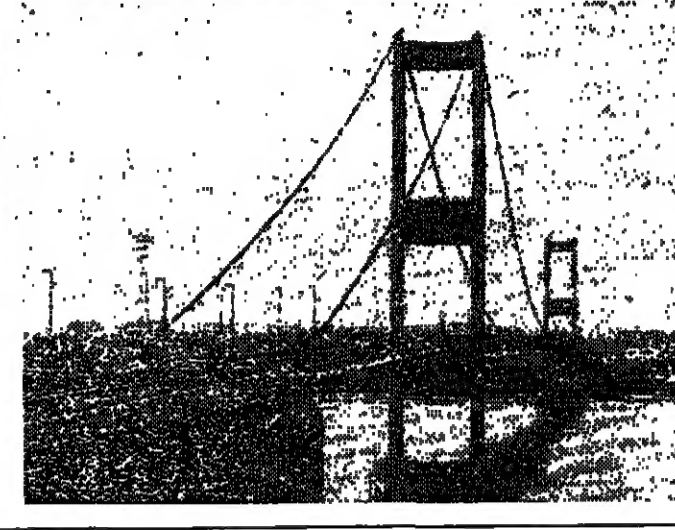
Sir Henry Plumb, leader of the group, said: "We have received hundreds of letters on this emotional subject. The lobbying is enormous. But we decided to leave it to the individual conscience of our members."

The Canadian Government is asking members of the European Parliament to reject the proposal.

Traffic restricted on corroding Severn Bridge



The 16-year-old Severn Bridge, which carries 11 million vehicles a year, is being restricted to a single lane in each direction at peak times because corrosion to its "hangers" means it no longer meets safety requirements (Craig Seton writes). At least £5m will have to be spent on redesigning and replacing the damaged hangers, the two-inch-diameter steel ropes (such as those above) which fasten the bridge deck to the suspension cables. Traffic restrictions will apply between 4 am and 8 am on weekdays, when heavy lorry use is at its maximum. According to the Department of Transport, latest tests on the bridge's 360 hangers, 49 of which



Defence Secretary spares warships after visit

By Henry Stanhope, Defence Correspondent

The Royal Navy's amphibious assault ships, HMS Fearless and HMS Intrepid, due to be scrapped after last year's defence review, have won a reprieve. Mr John Nott, Secretary of State for Defence, is expected to announce the move on Monday.

It was disclosed last month that Mr Nott had called for an assessment of how much it would cost to keep both 12,000-ton vessels afloat. The Defence Secretary is under-

stood to have been impressed by the design and performance of HMS Fearless when he visited it and it was as a result that he had a change of heart.

Naval officers believe, however, that to keep the Intrepid and the Fearless they will have to sacrifice smaller destroyers and by no means all are convinced by that order of priorities.

The assault ships would be used in wartime to transport

Royal Marines and their heavy equipment across the North Sea and the Marines will be delighted to hear that they have been saved.

However, the Fearless is already 17 years old and the Intrepid 15 years, and with no keels laid to replace them the future for such vessels must be short. The Navy would have preferred to use any spare cash to save the Invincible, the £475m aircraft carrier which is being sold to

Australia, amid controversy in both hemispheres.

The Intrepid has already been paid off and is now awaiting disposal, while the Fearless, now being used as a training ship for Dartmouth cadets, is scheduled to leave the fleet next year. Both ships have a built-in dock below decks, from which the Marines would float into battle on their assault craft. The alternative is for them to use roll-on, roll-off ferries

NEWS 5

SUMMAN

Radioac^{RY}

sprout

to be buric

Plants treated with radioactive calcium to try to solve a disorder which "browns" the centre of brussels sprouts are to be buried 6ft deep by the National Vegetable Research Station, at Wellesbourne, near Stratford-upon-Avon (Arthur Osman writes).

Professor John Bleasdale, of the research station, said yesterday that experiments in glasshouses over the past three years involved only 50 plants. Because radioactive material of a low order was involved, regulations required permission to dispose of it. The local council had given authority to bury the plants.

The disorder was due to a shortage of calcium and a cure would be particularly important to the freezer industry.

Conspiracy trial jury go home

The jury in the conspiracy trial at Manchester Crown Court involving Julie Good-year, the television actress, were sent home at lunchtime yesterday when the judge began to hear legal arguments. Mr Harold Singer, on behalf of the *Coronation Street* actress, began his submission to judge Basil Gerrard at the end of the prosecution case.

Miss Goodyear, aged 39, of Rochdale Road East, Heywood, Manchester, her former secretary, Janet Ross, aged 28, of Berwick Road, Blackpool, and Victoria Montague, aged 24, of Gloucester Street, Atherton, Lancashire, all deny a charge of conspiracy to defraud.

Court rebuff for Plessey

Three senior judges at the Court of Session in Edinburgh yesterday refused to hear an appeal by Plessey, the electronics company, until written answers to claims had been lodged with the court on behalf of workers staging a sit-in at the Bathgate factory, in Lothian.

Lord Cameron, sitting with Lord Avonside and Lord Stott, gave the workers 14 days to lodge answers.

Operation for MP

Mr Stephen Ross, aged 55, Liberal MP for the Isle of Wight, is to undergo heart surgery this week.

A winner for the SNP — but not yet

From Jonathan Wills, Glasgow

The satire flies proudly above the Scottish National Party's tiny, shabby shop front office in Dumbarton Road. Inside, the volunteers fall over each other in their eagerness to help.

By unfortunate coincidence the blue flag with the white St Andrews cross means, in international code, "My vessel is stopped and making no way through the water". That may have been appropriate three years ago, when the SNP was hammered in the North and only Mr Donald Stewart and Mr Gordon Wilson survived to tell Scotland's story to the Commons.

Not any more; a wary optimism is creeping back among the followers of the satire, and the memory of that patient cave dwelling spider, Robert the Bruce's companion, is being dusted off.

Dumbarton Road for most of its length is the place where "the polis" go around in pairs. It is clearly a place where Mr George Leslie feels very much at home. The SNP's candidate in the Hillhead by-election is a local boy made good who still has the common touch for the mean streets of Partick West.

His veterinary practice may be in Shawlands, Hill



Mr George Leslie: The local boy made good

head's mirror image on the south side of the Clyde, but as he is an old boy of Hillhead High School it is helping his campaign, as is his cheery manner with punters and pollsters alike.

If being a good fellow were enough Mr Leslie would be home and dry. But this campaign is many-issued and fewer than a fifth of the voters appear to believe that a Scottish parliament would have more success than a Westminster one when tackling the intractable issues of unemployment, money supply, bad housing and edu-

cation cuts. "If we cannot carry Glasgow then the SNP measures will not work", says Mr Leslie, who is no stranger to political battles in this city.

The trouble is that when the going gets rough the Glaswegian working class has always turned to its traditional champion, the Labour Party, rather than to the SNP. Talking to Mr Leslie, one gets the distinct impression that the Scots exasperate him more than the English.

"I get upset", he admits, "at the Scots accepting that they should live in a country with unemployment, decline and unemployment when we have so many resources that could be deployed. I get depressed at Scots saying they could not afford independence, they would not have the leader to do it — that kind of parish pump mentality that lack of self-confidence that the Scots have today."

If the SNP had its way and the Scottish parliament returns to Edinburgh, what would Mr Leslie's politics be? "I don't know", he replies. "I suppose I would agree with the ideology of Robert McIntyre, our first SNP MP in 1945, which is that what is good for Scotland is good, full stop."

"I am certainly not in favour of Thatcherite monetarism, but I am not a Bannister either. What we have is a record in community politics. As a councillor I was advocating things like rehabilitating old tenements, upgrading branch railway lines in the city and setting up community councils. All accepted now but not when I was on Glasgow Corporation."

Mr Leslie makes common cause with the Labour Party on devolution. If there is a majority of Scottish MPs for an assembly they should go ahead and form a Scottish parliament, he says.

What about Mr Roy Jenkins of the SDP? "If he had not been here I would have found this campaign twice as hard. The SNP bandwagon has loosened the allegiances of Labour and Tory voters, but Mr Roy Jenkins cannot win them over as an international statesman conferring his dignity on Hillhead."

Mr Leslie's failure to work out in detail the form of government policy that his independent Scotland should have will lose him few votes in Hillhead. The polls show he is moving up fast. George Leslie should go far in politics, but probably not quite far enough to win this time.

Private Eye damages for libelled minister

By John Witherow

Mr Peter Blaker, Minister of State for the Armed Forces, obtained substantial damages and an apology from *Private Eye* yesterday for a libel published in a satirical magazine nearly two years ago.

Lord Justice Russell was told in a statement read in the High Court that the magazine alleged in May, 1980, that Mr Blaker, then Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, tried to obstruct further inquiries into the death of a Hongkong police inspector.

It is also claimed that he refused to answer questions about the matter put to him in Parliament by Mr Dennis Canavan, Labour MP for Stroud, West, because the results of such an inquiry could damage his father's and family's interest in Hongkong.

Mr Richard Rampton, for the plaintiff, said the allegations were without foundation. Mr Blaker's father had died in 1965 and *Private Eye* reported his death in 1979.

Neither Mr Blaker nor any

member of his family owns property in Hong Kong and he had not sought to obstruct inquiries into the death of Inspector John MacLennan.

Mr Rampton said: "The defendants now accept that their allegations amounted to an unjustified attack on Mr Blaker and ought never to have been published."

The defendants, comprising Mr Richard Ingrams, editor of *Private Eye*, the printers, distributors and publishers, "offer their apologies to Mr Blaker for the considerable distress and embarrassment their disgraceful allegations have caused," a joint statement said.

□ The High Court Libel action brought by the television producer Mr Desmond Wilcox, against *Private Eye*, was adjourned yesterday until after Easter for his lawyers to consider the magazine's amended defence. Wilcox is alleging libel in five articles published in 1975, when he headed the BBC's general features department.

Warning of more kennel raids despite sentences

One of the leaders of a raid on a kennels where dogs are bred for experiments said yesterday that similar raids will continue until the law on vivisection is changed.

Robert August, secretary of the Hunt Saboteurs Association, was speaking after he and seven others were given suspended prison sentences at Hereford Crown Court for their part in an early morning raid on the Harewood Park Kennels, near Ross-on-Wye, Hereford and Worcester, last April.

The court was told that 10 beagle puppies, worth £1,000, were stolen from the kennels. The animals have never been recovered.

August, aged 33, a computer manager, of Landcroft Road, East Dulwich, south London, said the beagles were now all family pets and steps had been taken to make sure they could not be identified. He said he did not know where they were.

After the case he said: "I am not sorry I did it. I am only sorry I was caught. However, I shall not be able to take part in future raids because of the suspended

sentence, and because I shall lose my job. But there is a growing number of people willing to go part in raids and they will certainly go on. The law on vivisection has not been changed for more than a hundred years and we shall continue with our activities until it is."

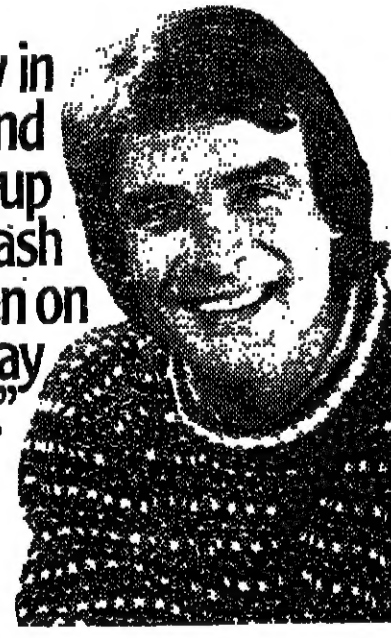
August and John Hale, aged 31, a fitter, of Rednal, Birmingham, and Aubrey Thomas, aged 24, an export agent, of The Brambles, West Drayton, Middlesex, who was treasurer of the Hunt Saboteurs Association, were each given 12-month prison sentences, suspended for 18 months, and ordered to pay £150 costs and £50 in fines.

Richard Ferry, aged 30, of Wood Green; David Callender, aged 22, of Hale, Liverpool; Lynne Matthews, aged 26, of Warrington, Lancashire; Nigel Kennett, aged 36, of Ivor, Buckinghamshire; and Ann August, aged 37, of Landcroft Road, East Dulwich, were all given nine-month sentences, suspended for 18 months. Ferry and Thomas had denied conspiracy to steal the puppies. The others admitted theft.

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Ne dealy start on tofect satellite broadcasting

TELEVISION

The Government has decided in principle that Britain should start its early start with direct broadcasting by satellite (DBS) with the aim of having a service in operation in 1985, Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, said in a statement in the Commons. It has concluded that because of the importance of making this early start the best course would be to have two channels initially.

Mr Whitelaw said: The House will recall the report of the Home Office study of DBS published last May. Reaction to that report has been largely constructive and positive. The Government now sees a need for early decisions if industry is to have the opportunities which DBS offers the country are to be grasped in good time, in a situation in which there will be keen international competition.

The Government has therefore decided, in principle, that this country should make an early start with DBS, with direct broadcasting by satellite in operation in 1985. Because of the importance of making this early start the best course would be to have two channels initially; the number of channels could be increased up to the maximum of five channels permitted by international allocation, as and when demand justified it.

The services would be transmitted at powers sufficient to permit both individual reception and community reception with the distribution of the signal to make a further announcement shortly about the future role of cable.

On the industrial side, various interests in the aerospace and related industries have shown that they are ready to play their part in this challenging new venture and we shall be working closely with them and with the domestic electronics industry to ensure that the economic benefits are effectively realized for the United Kingdom.

On the broadcasting side, it is clear that DBS must develop in a way that is consistent with our existing broadcasting arrangements, especially as regards the authority and maintenance of proper programme standards.

Staining a problem for pet food

QUESTIONS

The Government would be supporting a Bill to increase penalties for trading in unfit meat, Mrs Peggy Fenner, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, said.

Mr Norman Atkinson (Haringey, Lab) in the House of Commons, asked what representations have been received from the pet food industry in regard to the type of stain which might be appropriate for this purpose.

Mr Atkinson: The House will be delighted with that positive response from the industry. It is aware that although dogs are colour blind and therefore unable to distinguish between green and violet, any suggested staining proposals should take account of that many pet owners could object to putting out violet or green coloured food for their pets.

Can the reassured pet owners that whatever the stain used, it may be decolourised by the pet's saliva?

Mrs Fenner: We are considering what stain should be prescribed and we are taking account of the views of the pet food manufacturers that the stain to be one which disappears when the meat is heat treated and therefore does not get an unsavoury appearance to the pet food. But we shall certainly see the stain is immediately decolourised on raw meat.

Mr Dennis Skinner (Bolsover, Lab): Has she had a chance to see the letter from a worker at Heathrow in regard to the illegal transportation of meat via Bombay and Bahrain? Is she prepared to take action to stop this illegal action is stopped?

Mrs Fenner: The Government is most concerned that trade in unfit meat should be stopped. We are preparing meat sterilization regulations with a degree of urgency in order to stop any illegal trade in unfit meat and we shall be supporting his Bill to increase the penalties for these offences.

Bills remove barriers to marriage

HOUSE OF LORDS

Two personal Bills, the object of which was to enable people related by marriage but not by blood to marry, received a second reading in the House of Lords.

The first, the John Francis Dore and Gillian Dore (Marriage Enabling) Bill, was introduced by Lady Wootton of Abinger (Lab) who recalled that in the past three years four Bills had been presented to the House which had sought to enlarge the scope of relationships within which it was permissible to marry, particularly those who were connected by marriage but not by blood.

John Dore, aged 66, and Gillian Dore, aged 49, wished to marry but were unable to do so because of the law which prevented a stepfather and stepdaughter marrying.

The BBC has already put forward proposals for two DBS channels, one a general service and a subscription service including a substantial element of feature films and major sporting, cultural and other events not presently available for transmission on BBC 1 or BBC 2. The other would be a service which would draw on the best television programmes from around the world (and indeed from the home) and be financed essentially by licence fee revenue—which would probably include a supplemental licence fee for the service.

The IBA and commercial television companies have also shown some interest in providing DBS services, but their plans are less well advanced. Additionally, more time will be needed to devise a rights framework, which would be likely to involve legislation.

In these circumstances the Government believes that the necessary agreements, if the necessary agreements are to be reached between satellite providers and users, in a framework go-ahead with the BBC proposals.

However, the Government attaches importance to the participation of commercial television companies in DBS. The development of DBS and cable go hand in hand. The Government would like to see the development of cable before we have the debate in the House.

Mr Kenneth Warren (Hastings, C): To limit the service to two channels from the start by decree denies the opportunity to expand as fast as is commercially possible. There should be no technical barrier to more channels should not be available and therefore more companies come forward and make the whole system work.

Mr Whitelaw: We believe it is right to make a modest start to get ahead of our competitors. If we can move further and faster, we will do so.

Mr Dennis Skinner (Bolsover, Lab): Can he guarantee that he will not be making Lord Rees-Mogg, head of this quango?

Mr Michael Morris (Northampton, South, C): In discussion with the IBA, would it be possible to have a significant step into totally new and rapidly changing area of broadcasting development, money and an element of financial risk.

The fact that neither of the new channels will be financed out of advertising (as was the case with the existing channels) is a welcome development.

Commercial interests will be able to do so.

Mr Enoch Powell (South Down, Off UUP): Has he taken note that there have been gross excesses of the catch over some of the agreed limits which were informally agreed last October, and of the particular countries whose boats were responsible for the excesses?

Mr Buchanan-Smith: I have indeed and I regard as thoroughly unsatisfactory the way some of these proposed quotas have been exceeded by particular countries.

The Government has made its view perfectly clear on this to the EEC Commission and the United Kingdom. It is going to have effective conservation we must have it on an internationally agreed basis and internationally enforced.

Mr Buchanan-Smith: This is a matter about which I am deeply concerned because the last year has seen the disappearance of former Spanish vessels.

In addition to what Mr Biffen is doing already, there is a review taking place of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894. A consultation document has been issued, and the fishing industry invited to comment.

I shall be working very closely with Mr Biffen on this because it does need to be dealt with.

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Byratt Is government reversing policy

Mr Byratt, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, said today that the Government was reversing its policy on the participation of commercial television companies in satellite broadcasting.

Mr Byratt said: "I cannot see that that should be necessary. Sir Paul Byratt (Howden, C): At the time of the Broadcasting Bill, the Government's policy was to increase the choice of programmes by increasing the number of sources from which those programmes came. Is he reversing that policy?"

Mr Whitelaw: The Government is not reversing anything. The BBC have put forward their detailed proposals far ahead of anyone else. They are in a position to sign up with those who will provide the hardware and we believe it is in the country's interests that they should do so.

Mr Byratt: A statement on cable transmission arrangements is as important as the statement.

Mr Whitelaw: I agree. The development of DBS and cable go hand in hand. The Government would like to see the development of cable before we have the debate in the House.

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Thatcher: S Africa tour a mistake

PM'S QUESTIONS

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, endorsed at question time what Lord Carrington, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, had said about the South African cricket tour by England cricketers, perhaps being a mistake. She said: "Yes" or "No" when asked whether she shared the view.

Mr Jack Straw (Blackburn, Lab): Her meaty mouthed, half-hearted fence-sitting comments in this House on the subject of the South African cricket tour by England cricketers, perhaps being a mistake, is a mistake in itself. I am sure he is right about the Commonwealth Games and that the whole House wishes them to go ahead. I cannot find time for a debate on the tour of South Africa.

Mr John Gifford (Luton, West, C): On sport in South Africa, perhaps we could have a debate on Mr Denis Howell (Birmingham, Small Heath, Lab), and Labour spokesmen on sport who has been passing most of the week pursuing his particular sport behind the iron curtain in Rhodesia.

Mr Andrew Faulds (Warley, East, Lab): He should consider the need for a debate on British sport in South Africa. It would give Mrs Thatcher an opportunity to clarify her own muddled, confused and prejudiced mind on the matter.

Mr Pym: The Prime Minister made it clear yesterday. I do not think I can find time for a debate.

Mr David Winnick (Walsall, North, Lab): A Government statement is necessary on the cricket tour to South Africa because of the Prime Minister's shameful refusal to condemn the apartheid regime.

We need to know from Mrs Thatcher's real views and if she endorses the sentiments of the Labour Party and the sportsmen who are going to South Africa, she should say so.

Mr Pym: I have nothing to add to what has been said today.

Mr Robert Kilroy-Glik (Ormskirk, Lab): Can she not just condemn the apartheid regime in South Africa and the Conservative MPs who support it?

Mrs Thatcher: I have answered so many questions. I have nothing to add to the answers I have previously given.

Mr James Wellbeloved (Bexley, Erith and Crayford, SDP): Has she noted the double standards of those who pay lip service to the condemnation of the Soviet invasion and occupation of Afghanistan but who support the cricket tour to South Africa?

Will she avoid making the same error by clearly condemning those who have offended people's decency, and who support their cricket tour to South Africa?

Mrs Thatcher: I have endeavoured to apply the same rules. We try to discuss people from going to South Africa. I think are contrary to the Glenageary agreement or, in the case of Afghanistan, have given cause for concern. Without any doubt, we have tried to dissuade them in both cases. Our only powers are powers of persuasion. People are free to decide for themselves.

When next week's business was being considered, Mr Foot said some of the answers which some MPs were deeply concerned to ensure that the Commonwealth Games went ahead.

He continued: Even if some Conservatives do not care, we think it would be a tragedy if these games were cancelled. That is the danger, that England could be excluded.

The Prime Minister should make a fresh statement in the House on the subject of the cricket tour to South Africa. It is the form of her answers this week.

Mr Foot was interrupted by laughter from some Conservatives.

Coal's future lies in expanded markets

COAL BILL

The Government had confidence in the coal industry's potential and its competitive pricing of coal along with reliability of supply. The board needed to demonstrate its management of the resources available to it, and of particular to ensure its investment projects were sound.

Mr Alexander Eadie, an Opposition spokesman (Midlothian, Lab) said the delay in the development of the Vale of Belvoir in North East Leicestershire had reached the proportions of a national scandal. The Government should make an announcement to go ahead now in the interests of the miners but also those of the future economic recovery of the country.

There had been a propaganda effort by Mr Ronald Butt, the Times columnist, who was known as representing the coal industry. The article was so heavily biased it brought a response from Mr Joe Gormley, President of the NUM, who said a demolition job was being done on the industry.

Mr Gormley pointed out the Inspector at the public inquiry had found a huge weight of evidence. Mr Butt left the House.

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Inquiry into research assistants

Mr Francis Pym, Lord President of the Council and Leader of the House, said today that he had instituted an inquiry into the recruitment of research assistants in the Commons.

He said: A number of allegations have been made and I thought it right to institute some inquiries. There are security implications.

Mr Nicholas Winterford (Macclesfield, C) had asked for clarification of the position of research assistants.

He said: They do not give a damn for the Commonwealth Games or to the reputation of the House of Commons.

Mr Pym: The House of Commons is a very different matter. Mr Foot has some rather subjective judgments on what MPs feel about the tour.

I am sure he is right about the Commonwealth Games and that the whole House wishes them to go ahead. I cannot find time for a debate on the tour of South Africa.

Mr John Gifford (Luton, West, C): On sport in South Africa, perhaps we could have a debate on Mr Denis Howell (Birmingham, Small Heath, Lab), and Labour spokesmen on sport who has been passing most of the week pursuing his particular sport behind the iron curtain in Rhodesia.

Mr Andrew Faulds (Warley, East, Lab): He should consider the need for a debate on British sport in South Africa. It would give Mrs Thatcher an opportunity to clarify her own muddled, confused and prejudiced mind on the matter.

Mr Pym: The Prime Minister made it clear yesterday. I do not think I can find time for a debate.

Mr David Winnick (Walsall, North, Lab): A Government statement is necessary on the cricket tour to South Africa because of the Prime Minister's shameful refusal to condemn the apartheid regime.

We need to know from Mrs Thatcher's real views and if she endorses the sentiments of the Labour Party and the sportsmen who are going to South Africa, she should say so.

Mr Pym: I have nothing to add to what has been said today.

Cheaper oil is good news for industry

The reduction in the price of North Sea oil by 54 pence a barrel was good news for industry because it would lower industrial costs and help to reduce inflation, Mrs Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said.

Mr Winston Churchill (Stratford, C) had congratulated her on taking the initiative among the oil producing nations to procure a sharp downward trend in oil prices.

This provides not only Great Britain but the western industrialised world (he said) with the opportunity of breaking out of the vicious economic circle of recent years into what Mrs Thatcher called the virtuous circle of lower inflation, lower interest rates, lower taxes, lower costs, generating greater resources and savings which in turn lead to lower taxation.

Mrs Thatcher: It is also good news for increasing world trade as money which would otherwise have been spent on oil will now be available for the purchase of other goods, and our industry is in a good position to take advantage of that expansion.

Further questions, she said: We should hope that from the recent fall in oil prices we are in a position to try to get some expansion and to continue our policy of supporting and encouraging development of new industries and expanding small business.

She said: The Government will be looking at the need for a 19,000 man retraining budget next week, next year the PSBR would go up by 16,000 which would increase the deficit but would also increase industry, jobs and the rest. For every one point increase in

impression most of it came from the oil industry. In fact those who spoke in favour of development of the oil industry were the EEC, the European Energy Commission, the CEEB, and the two county councils involved.

Mr Butt claimed 4,000 properties would be affected by the proposed development. Expert evidence based on the experience of other oil fields suggested two-thirds of all properties would be affected at all and only 100 would suffer anything more than slight damage.

Some of the railway buildings would be necessary but the only development within the vale would be the reinstatement of track on a disused line. There would be no permanent loss of agricultural land as a result of waste disposal from the mines as only 3 per cent of the total land would be affected.

Mr Dennis Skinner (Bolsover, Lab) said that interest rates would be consumed all that, the Government was giving the coal industry. The Government was not giving the industry anything. It was just hanging round its neck.

It was a tragedy when subsidies were being given to the coal industry in the Common Market that the Government was not giving any opportunity for the industry to breathe and compete with Germany, France and the rest.

Mr Michael Welch (Don Valley, Lab) said greater efforts should be made to increase exports of coal, particularly to Third World countries.

Mr Raymond Powell (Oremore, Lab) said the Welsh coalfield was a disaster area. It needed the development of a new deep mine at Margam. The Government should discuss it with the NCB and the NUM as a matter of urgency.

The Bill was read the third time.

Mr Pym: I do not wish to anticipate what will be discovered in the investigation. But I am sure it should be looked at if only to satisfy curiosity. It is not a matter of the present arrangements are satisfactory and if they are not, then we can do something about it.

Mr Goy Barnett (Greenwich, Lab): Will the Welsh coalfield be the adequacy or inadequacy of facilities for research assistants?

Mr Pym: Yes, that is relevant. I have had quite a lot of criticism that in some cases a strain is being put on existing facilities not justified by the nature of the inquiries.

Wellbeloved: Double standards

interest charges, it means the cost of the national debt goes up £1,000 per annum.

Mr Thatcher: I wholly agree if there were to be an increase in expenditure of that amount to be met by the borrowing requirement interest rates would go up sharply indeed.

I cannot precisely confirm his figures, but I share his general view that it would be a long time before the interest on debt have gone up enormously. They were about £2,000 in 1979. This year they will be £15,000 which is higher than we spend either on the national health or education services.

Thatcher silent on M15 computer

The Prime Minister refused to be drawn into answering questions about an M15 computer, saying that it was a long hallowed practice not to comment in the Commons on security matters.

Mr Michael Minter (Oldham, West, Lab) had said: Has she seen reports today that M15 has set up a gigantic secret computer in the north which is twice the size of the already vast British National Computer, and that M15 has been given unlimited access to other Government department files to build up a comprehensive national filing system on each individual?

He already has two and a half times the size of the already vast British National Computer, and that M15 has been given unlimited access to other Government department files to build up a comprehensive national filing system on each individual?

Mr Pym: I have nothing to add to what has been said today.

Mr Minter: He also asked the Home Secretary why he was not prepared to support the Private Investigators Bill put forward to the Home Office by the Association of British Investigators in view of the fact that it satisfied its requirements for self-regulation.

Mr Patrick Mayhew, Minister of State, Home Office, in a written reply, said: We considered the Bill in detail. It was not made out.

We think it is preferable to support and encourage self-regulation by the industry rather than to impose a statutory position of requirements backed by penal sanctions. We have indicated that we will again consider it, and our view remains unchanged.

High awards by wage councils anger firms

Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Employment, has written to two wage councils drawing their attention to the anger among a number of small businesses at the size of the wage awards made at the end of the year.

Mr John Townsend (Bridlington, C) said there was a growing concern among small businesses at the size of the wage awards made at the end of the year.

Mr Townsend: I am sure that the Government will be looking at the need for a 19,000 man retraining budget next week, next year the PSBR would go up by 16,000 which would increase the deficit but would also increase industry, jobs and the rest. For every one point increase in

impression most of it came from the oil industry. In fact those who spoke in favour of development of the oil industry were the EEC, the European Energy Commission, the CEEB, and the two county councils involved.

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Rate grants system in inner London damages Tories

By David Walker

Renewed criticism of the grant system devised by Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, is certain, after the announcement by Conservative controlled councils in inner London of rates increases substantially higher than in the inner boroughs controlled by Labour.

Tower Hamlets council, which is Labour controlled, yesterday said it would ask its ratepayers for 9 per cent more in 1982-83. That compares with the 17 per cent figure for the commercial rate increase recommended yesterday by the committee of the City of London, whose members stand on no party platforms but pride themselves on financial rectitude.

Tower Hamlets is one of the Labour-controlled councils in London that, classified by Mr Heseltine as "over-spenders", have gained from his grants distribution for 1982-83, an election year for the London boroughs.

A similar pattern holds throughout inner London. Domestic ratepayers will pay nearly 21 per cent more in Conservative Westminster, 7 per cent extra in neighbouring Lambeth, which is Labour controlled; Wandsworth, Conservative, will probably next week vote a rates increase of about 15 per cent, while neighbouring Lambeth, Labour, plans a cut in its rate of 1 per cent. Rates in Southwark, Labour, will rise by 10 per cent while Conservative Kensington and Chelsea's will increase by 25 per cent.

Conservative councillors on the Government's benches are doubly angry because the portion of the rate attributable to spending by the boroughs has been cut in several cases.

Wandsworth council hopes to cut its "borough rate", the amount it needs to pay for the services it provides, — by more than 40 per cent. It blames the rises on the increased amounts demanded by the Inner London Education Authority (ILEA) and the Greater London Council, both Labour-controlled.

Mr Patrick Roney, chairman of the City of London Finance Committee, said: "The severe demands placed on City of London ratepayers are caused by the direct result of heavy precepts by ILEA and the GLC and the resulting grant losses."

But Labour-controlled boroughs have cut their borough rates, too. Tower Hamlets by 17 per cent. Even adding the precepts, they are planning to ask ratepayers for proportionately less in total.

An explanation was given earlier this week by Mr Nicholas Freeman, leader of Kensington and Chelsea council, when he announced that rates would rise, but through no fault of the Conservatives.

"It will be noticed that for other boroughs the increase is lower than ours. The explanation is to be found by appreciating that only a relatively small part of the total bill is attributable to the high-spending boroughs the borough proportion of the rate bill is very much greater than in the case in this borough."

Several of the Labour boroughs gained unexpectedly from the grants formula, a point acknowledged by Mr Heseltine in the past when he said it illustrated the objective nature of his system. Lambeth's finances improved markedly as a result of the adjustments to the rate support system made last year to give more aid to designated inner city areas.

Other boroughs, such as Camden, which receives no grant, have used cash reserves to protect ratepayers. Some councils have cut spending.

Williams urges jobs for blacks

By Philip Webster
Political Reporter

Positive discrimination to encourage blacks into the public services was advocated last night by Mrs Shirley Williams, joint leader of the Social Democratic Party.

She said that public purchasing and government contracts should be made conditional on companies having clear and positive non-discriminatory employment policies.

Mrs Williams, delivering the Gaiskill memorial lecture at Nottingham University, did not say such policies would operate and made no mention of legislation, but she said their success would depend on effective monitoring.

"Many of us in central and local government wrongly believed that the different races in Britain would settle down to a tolerant acceptance of one another," she said, but a growing number of young people were being alienated from society.

Unemployment among blacks was 40 per cent, or even higher, and was concentrated among the unskilled, the less qualified and the ethnic minorities.

An underclass of young people is emerging, a lost generation.

Authoritarian approaches to the problem "may buy time, and we need to buy time. But they offer no solutions, and they threaten the fragile structure of a democracy based on consent, by putting a lid on the cauldron."

Mr Barry Prosser died in Winson Green Prison, Birmingham, from a crippling blow to the stomach caused by one of the prison people, a murder trial jury was told yesterday.

Dr Derek Barrowcliffe, a Home Office pathologist, told Leicester Crown Court that it was "highly, highly unlikely" that Mr Prosser's injuries were self-inflicted, and he ruled out the possibility that they were caused by a fall over a chamberpot.

Mr Prosser, aged 32, was found dead in his cell on August 19, 1980. The court heard that he died from a burst stomach and a perforated gut.

Dr Barrowcliffe said Mr Prosser was bruised both internally and externally from head to toe. It was most likely that more than one person was responsible, although it was possible that he had been taken off guard by a blow to his genitals and reduced to a "crippled hulk" by one man.

Melwyn Jackson, aged 33, Eric Smith, aged 33, all

Judges get new power to defer sentences

By Frances Gibb

MPs yesterday agreed to new powers for judges and magistrates to suspend part of a prison sentence. This was despite a barrage of criticism from the Opposition and warnings that the prison population would rise to more than 45,000.

In the committee stage of the Criminal Justice Bill, Labour MPs, who were defeated on the new clause by 11 votes to nine, accused the Government of changing from its original policy of automatic parole for shorter sentence prisoners because of pressure from the judiciary.

Mr Alexander Lyon, Labour MP for York and a former Minister of State at the Home Office, said that Lord Justice Lawton, a senior judge in the Court of Appeal, had "blown the gaff" when he had spoken of a meeting of the appeal court judges with the Lord Chief Justice and indicated "how they had voted him slowly down".

"Five or six people in England decided that a proposal which was widely canvassed, supported by a considerable section of this House, certainly by the Home Office, and was the policy of the Home Secretary, should not be carried."

The reason, he said, was that the judiciary had indicated that if there was automatic parole for shorter-term prisoners who had served one third of their sentences, judges would increase sentences accordingly.

With that ultimatum, from the judiciary, Mr Alfred Dubs, Labour MP for Battersea South, added, the Home Office capitulated and the minister dramatically changed his view.

Dr Shirley Summerskill, a Labour home affairs spokeswoman, said to learn how legislation was drawn up through newspapers and television. No one had told them those consultations were taking place.

The new powers, which the Government hopes will ease overcrowding in prisons, come into force on March 29, by the implementation of a section in the Criminal Law Act, 1977, which has never been activated.

Provisions in the Criminal Justice Bill will make the use of the powers more flexible by cutting from six to three months the minimum sentence that can be partly

suspended and cutting from six weeks to 28 days the period that an offender must spend in custody.

Bodies opposed to the new powers, which include the Law Society, the Justice Clerks' Society and the National Association of Probation Workers, were cited by Mr Robert Kilroy-Silk, Labour MP for Ormskirk.

They feared the powers would lead to a rise in prison numbers, he said. Faced with borderline cases, courts would go for the easy option and give a partly suspended sentence rather than take the bolder step of a fully suspended or non-custodial sentence.

Mr Kilroy-Silk, who is chairman of the all-party penal affairs group, abstained from the vote because he supported the intention behind the clause. He said Home Office research had shown that when suspended sentences were first introduced courts used them where previously they would have imposed a non-custodial sentence.

Replying for the Government, Mr Patrick Mayhew, Minister of State at the Home Office, said one could not ignore the opinion of the judiciary, who were going to impose the sentences.

Mr Mayhew, who was responsible for the power being included in the Criminal Law Act in 1977 when an opposition member, said that although it had never been implemented much had changed since then.

There was evidence that the judiciary had learnt from their mistakes over the suspended sentences and there was a much wider appreciation of their proper use. It was a reasonable gamble to ensure that the new power would be properly applied.

An internal police inquiry into the death, in custody, of a man aged 26 will be shown on BBC Television next Monday in the Police series, filmed with the Thames Valley force.

The man, who was drunk, was found in his cell, flat on his back, unconscious and vomiting. Despite attempts at resuscitation by policemen, he was dead on arrival at hospital.

The issue for the police was not any question of ill treatment of the prisoner but whether standing orders covering such situations had been carried out.

Heathrow's volunteers speed the baggage

By Alan Hamilton

Passengers using terminal one at Heathrow have reported to British Airways that they have been able to collect their baggage more quickly since baggage handlers there went on strike nearly four weeks ago.

Airline officials also privately concede that passengers' complaints of pilferage have been almost non-existent, since the work was taken over by volunteers drawn from other departments of BA.

"I was out of the airport in half the time it would have taken me to collect my baggage from the bays," said a shuttle passenger who collected his suitcase direct from the aircraft hold.

Another of the scores who wrote to the airline said: "Grateful thanks for keeping the flights going and demonstrating how loyalty, common sense and an active conscience can show the foolish strikers up for what they are."

Far fewer complaints had come from customers about the strike than about the recent bad weather disruptions, the airline said. "Once they know what it is all about they are very understanding."

Mr Lindsay Todd, general manager at terminal one, confirmed yesterday that the airline's target of clearing 90 per cent of incoming passengers' baggage within 25 minutes was being achieved more often than by the regular staff.

Their enthusiasm was partly responsible, he said. But the main reason was that BA had given up handling mail and cargo on its domestic and European flights while the dispute lasted. Only about 10 per cent of short haul flights are being cancelled, and long haul services are not affected.

The 2,000 regular ramp staff, members of the Transport and General Workers' Union, are objecting to new rosters which claim mean working from 17 to 30 extra days a year without extra pay.

About 350 volunteers a day, from aircraft captains to clerical staff, load, unload and clean aircraft, transport baggage and drive the tractors which position aircraft on the ground.

Mr Robert Macdonald, head of customer services, said the volunteers were well aware that the airline lost £140m last year. A "survival plan" aims to cut 3,000 jobs



Mr Michael Lock, a designer preparing a Surrealist style model (left) wearing a Schiaparelli dress for the new costume gallery at Brighton Museum. The gallery, which opens in April, will feature the creations of famous couturiers of the 1920-50 period, many presented by the original owners.

Prison governor loses Lords contempt appeal

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

A former governor of Albany Prison, Isle of Wight, was in contempt of court when he blocked a prisoner's High Court application, the House of Lords ruled yesterday.

Stephen Patrick Raymond, the prisoner, had tried to apply to have Mr Colin Honey committed for contempt after he stopped a letter from the prisoner to his solicitor.

The Lords ruled that Mr Honey was wrong to intercept the High Court application, but upheld the Divisional Court ruling that he had not been in contempt when he blocked the original letter. A cross-appeal by Raymond was dismissed.

Lord Wilberforce said there was nothing in the Prison Act, 1952, that conferred power to make regulations which would deny, or interfere with, the prisoner's

basic right to unimpeded access to a court.

Lord Bridge of Harwich said the evidence failed to establish that the stopping of Raymond's letter to his solicitor effectively impeded him in giving instructions on the conduct of his defence at Camberwell Green Magistrates' Court, south London.

Mr Honey escapes a penalty, however. The Divisional Court made no order on the motion.

The Prison Department said it would carefully consider the judgment to see if there were any further implications for its procedures.

After the Divisional Court voting, governors were told not to stop communications to courts issuing proceedings. The prison standing orders reflect that judgment, the department says.

Law Report, page 23

BIG GROWTH IN USE OF GATWICK

By Michael Bailey

Traffic through Gatwick grew by a quarter last year to make it the world's fourth biggest international airport.

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Law Report, page 23

First shot fired in Welsh water war

From Tim Jones, Cardiff

Mr Dafydd Wigley, president of Plaid Cymru, yesterday returned to the Welsh Water Authority his unpaid bill for £267 for a year's domestic water supply and signalled the beginning of a campaign of civil disobedience in the principality.

Water charges are an emotive issue in Wales and the party is hoping that thousands of consumers will refuse to pay their water rates until "more realistic payments" are made by English authorities for their supplies from Welsh reservoirs.

Plaid Cymru considers that the issue cuts across the language divide and political affiliations and is urging people from all parties to withhold payment of their bills. Welsh Water Authority consumers are charged 30p in the pound, compared with the 14p and 17p paid respectively by customers of the Severn-Trent and North West authorities, both of which extract millions of gallons from reservoirs in Wales.

Dissatisfaction in the principality was heightened by the recent decision of the WWA to raise its charges to the average household by 18.3 per cent.

The WWA has asked the Severn-Trent Authority to pay £4.5m, three times the present charge, for the water it takes from Wales, but that has been rejected. Mr Nicholas Edwards, Secretary of State for Wales, and Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, are now involved in the dispute.

Mr Edwards has agreed that the WWA be reorganised to make it more efficient but he is determined to resist calls for a centralized water authority on the lines of other nationalized industries.

Earlier this week MPs attending the parliamentary committee on Welsh affairs were told by Dr Roger Thomas, the Labour member for Carmarthen, that the issue of water charges could cause instability throughout the principality.

Boxing belts stolen

Cash and two championship belts worth £1,700 each have been stolen from the British Boxing Board of Control's London office. One of the belts was new. The other had been held by Charlie Magri, the former British flyweight champion.

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Bailiffs on trail of bookworms

Bailiffs are being used to deal with people in Hampshire who fail to return library books. In a three-month experiment, a book worth £2,600 were recovered with £768 in fines and £111 for lost books.

Hampshire County Council has decided to make the bailiffs, who take 10 per cent of the debt recovered, a permanent feature of its library service.

Mr John Reynolds, who is in charge of administration for the country's 53 libraries, said that only a minority of missing books were caused by the forgetfulness. "Most of the people who keep library books do so deliberately."

If a book is not returned after two reminders we get in touch with the bailiff. I have known a person take a wheelbarrow load of overdue books to a mobile library."

Stricken ship worries MP

Mr Gordon Wilson, the Scottish National Party MP for Dundee East, yesterday called for an urgent government statement on the potential danger caused by the cargo ship Craigantlet, which is aground off the Galloway coast with a cargo of dangerous chemicals on board.

Mr Wilson said: "Highly poisonous chemicals have been washed into the sea and I want to find out what the Government is doing to lessen the danger and prevent such an occurrence happening again."

The Cypriot container vessel went aground off Portpatrick on Friday. Some of the deck cargo, including containers of chemical waste, has since been washed into the sea and police have warned people to stay away.

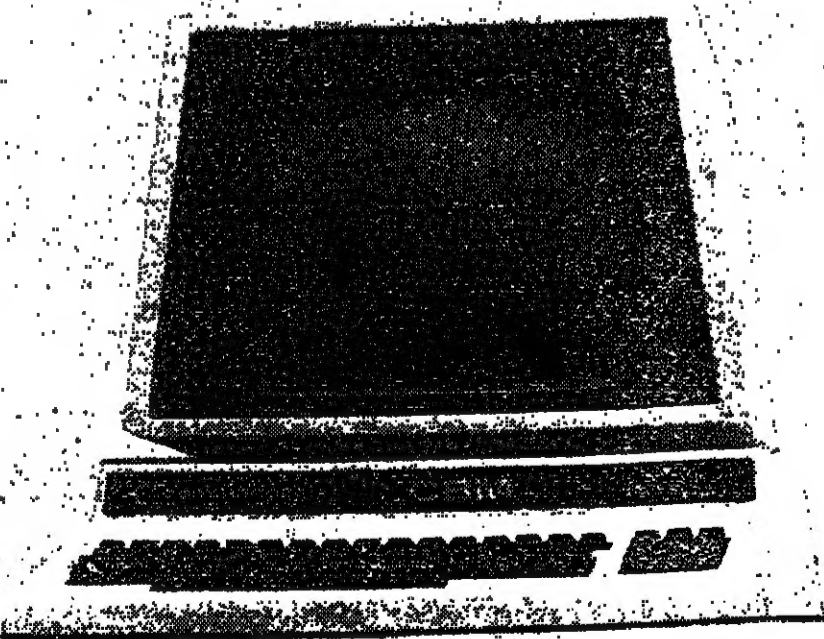
Child murder charge remand

Martin Edward Beale, aged 49, was remanded in custody yesterday charged with murdering his daughter Rowan, aged two, at Hope Cove, Devon, on Tuesday.

Mr Beale, an unemployed craftsman, of no fixed address, is to appear again at Kingsbridge Magistrates' Court on Wednesday.

"A leading computer company shows that with prices from £200 to £9000 their micros can fit anyone's pocket..."

"So now you can afford to recruit a computer that's so much cuter it makes you astuter."



It seems that even hardened money men who complain about cash flowing like treacle are very happy to invest in the PET, Commodore's microcomputer.

Apparently they never realised that a proper computer could be so reasonable. And the PET certainly is a proper computer. Why I'm told whole accounts departments flush with pleasure as it gets out statements quicker than a bank manager on roller skates! And since it ferrets out facts fast, overworked executives can now spare the odd hour to grab a drink of lunch.

Commodore have a lot more to say about their range, so I'll let them get on with it.

Value is one of the first things that strikes people about Commodore computers. Talking to businessmen we found they were pleasantly surprised at just how much they could get for their money. And that applies right across the range, from our £200 home colour computer to the highly sophisticated £9000 superPET system.

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Freedom from routine paperwork - this becomes a reality because a PET can sort out those essential, but time-consuming everyday jobs. So, you can get on with more important things. Like running your business.

Versatility is another PET strong point. Thanks to our enormous library of software programs, your PET will be able to handle anything from accounts to stock control, payroll to financial planning and much more, too.

Simplicity is one more valuable PET asset. Although it can do so much, almost anyone in the firm will be able to use it. The programs virtually tell you what to do as you go along.

In our free booklet, which we'll happily send you, we also make it very simple to understand computers and choose just the right system for your particular line of work.

Service and reliability are all you should expect from a company which has been in electronics for over 20 years. Also, since the dealers in our nationwide network only become Commodore Business Consultants after being carefully selected and trained, you can be sure you'll be looked after properly. Before and after sales.

The most astute thing you can do now is send back the coupon and get the helpful free colour brochure that makes choosing a computer simple.

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Anger in Spain to killing by Civil Guards

From Richard Wigg, Madrid, March 4

Spain's Civil Guards are once again at the centre of a popular outcry in Andalusia after the fatal shooting of an 18-year-old youth and the serious wounding of his cousin at Trebujena 20 miles north of Jerez, the sherry town. They had been riding a motorcycle and failed to heed a Civil Guard's order to halt. Last night after the burial of the youth, Ignacio Montoya, an unemployed labourer, all the region's leftwing forces headed by the Socialist Party of Andalusia, combined to issue a statement rejecting the official version of the shooting as "incorrect, and an insult to the victim". They demanded an investigation by Parliament.

The local Civil Guard authorities said a Civil Guard on duty outside the paramilitary organization's barracks identified the youths as two suspected thieves denounced earlier in the day by a local farmer's wife.

The Civil Guard, according to the official version, fired one warning shot into the air. When the motorcycle failed to stop he fired three more shots at the youths. Ignacio Montoya was killed instantly, and his cousin was found by doctors later to have been shot through the spine.

Local people maintained that the youths failed to stop because they did not want to get a traffic fine. They pointed out that one hour elapsed between the woman's denunciation being communicated to Civil Guards on duty, and the two youths riding past the barracks. The youth's motorcycle possessed a mechanical part which the farmer's wife had noted was missing from a thief's vehicle.

Last May Andalusia was

the scene of a tragic error by Civil Guards which ended with the discovery of three burnt corpses on an Almería roadside. They belonged to three young men with no criminal records who had been detained and interrogated by Civil Guards as suspected members of ETA, the Basque terrorist organization.

Senor Juan Roson, the Interior Minister, subsequently told Parliament that "irregularities" had occurred. The latest blunder by the Civil Guards, who are widely feared and hated in Andalusia caused all banks, shops, bars, schools and even public offices to close all day yesterday in Trebujena following a protest motion passed by all parties on the town council.

The Civil Governor of Seville replied by imposing a fine of 500,000 pesetas (about £2,700) on the town's leftwing mayor, as well as fines on local shopkeepers.

Madrid: A deposition given in court today linked Major-General Alfonso Aranda, former deputy Army Chief of Staff to the right-wing military plot to overthrow the Spanish governments despite earlier written testimony from the ex-adviser to King Juan Carlos that he was not part of the conspiracy (AP reporter).

The deposition was given in the ninth day of the court martial trying General Aranda, 31 other military men and one civilian for military rebellion in the attempted coup a year ago.

A deposition by Brigadier-General Manuel Prieto, of the Civil Guard said the leader of rebellious Civil Guards claimed he was acting on the orders of General Aranda.

From Paul Ellman, Guatemala City, March 4

Caught in the crossfire between left and right, the Roman Catholic Church in Central America is heading towards a big crisis, particularly over its role in the strife-torn nations of El Salvador and Guatemala.

At the centre of the debate presently disturbing the church is the question of how far it should go in spreading the Christian doctrine of human dignity and brotherly love without becoming involved in revolutionary political movements whose members include Marxists.

Critics on the right, both political and ecclesiastical, argue that the church has already gone too far and is encouraging the spread of communism. Critics on the left accuse it of only surface commitment to social change.

This commitment stemmed originally from a desire to halt the spread of Marxist ideology. After Vatican II from 1962 to 1965, the Latin American church as a whole agreed to work to improve the lot of its adherents, particularly the impoverished inhabitants of rural areas. The church found itself in direct competition with those trying to foster the ideals of the Cuban revolution, seen as a model for Latin American nations.

As a consequence priests in El Salvador, for example, went to live in rural areas, introducing villagers for the first time to the idea that they could liberate themselves from a brutish existence dominated by the harsh rule of the National Guard.

Not surprisingly, many of the guerrillas fighting in El Salvador still profess to be Christian Democrats opposed to the party's decision under President José Napoleón Duarte to share power with the military.

In Guatemala priests brought a similar message to the Indians who, while they

make up 60 per cent of the population, live on the margins of the country's life.

The mounting political violence in these two countries over the past two years has not spared the church, which has seen nine of its workers murdered in El Salvador and 12 in Guatemala, which has also banned foreign missionaries from entering the country.

The most spectacular attack on the church was the assassination in 1980 at the altar of San Salvador Cathedral of Archbishop Oscar

Arnulfo Romero y Galdamez, who was an outspoken critic of the behaviour of the Salvadorean military.

Under strong pressure, not only from the right but also from the Christian Democratic Party, his successor, Acting Archbishop Arturo Rivera y Damas, has been more circumspect, preferring to address himself in general terms to the need to "detoxify" El Salvador of violence.

Church circles, however, report that even this may not be enough to assuage the right and there is growing

pressure, inside and outside the church, for Mgr Rivera y Damas not to be confirmed in his post but for the archdiocese to be given to a non-Salvadorean.

The right has been encouraged by last week's public admonishment by Pope John Paul II of the Jesuits for their radical activities, which have often strayed from the conservative positions adopted by the Pope.

The Jesuits, who total about 300 in Central America, have long been among the foremost proponents of the

so-called "theology of liberation" which, right-wingers claim, differs little from Marxist doctrine.

"Before they used to see a Christian Democrat behind every Jesuit. Now they see at best a Social Democrat or, at worst, a Marxist," commented a member of the order, which has been threatened with outright expulsion from both El Salvador and Guatemala. "It's only because we are for a social situation which provides reforms and justice."

While the church's efforts

Crisis in Central America Catholic church caught in the crossfire



War toll: Salvadorean guerrillas collecting taxes from traffic on the Pan American highway

to improve the social conditions of its followers come under fire from the right, the Marxist left in Nicaragua has broken publicly with the hierarchy there.

Archbishop Miguel Obando y Bravo of Nicaragua last June warned that "after two years of hope, our revolution is heading towards Marxism on the Cuban model".

The Archbishop was a persistent critic of the late Nicaraguan dictator, Anastasio Somoza, who was overthrown in 1979. Later he has been attacking the Sandinistas, who overthrew the dictatorship, for violating the human rights of the Miskito Indian population.

The revolutionary Government in Managua has resettled forcibly in the centre of the country more than 8,000 Miskitos, whose previous home was on the Pacific coast near the frontier with Honduras, alleging that they were collaborating with anti-Sandinista guerrillas.

The Sandinistas have asked the Vatican to send a mission of inquiry to look into the activities of the church in Nicaragua.

The fear that church unity could be shattered because of events in El Salvador, Guatemala and Nicaragua brought a dire warning from Archbishop Román Arrieta Villalobos of Costa Rica, who is also chairman of the Episcopal Council of Central America and Panama.

Warning that the church could end up unable to preach its message of reconciliation, and clearly hoping that the right and left will not force a schism, the Archbishop said: "I cannot accept the idea of support for violent change, since Christians have other ways. There, nevertheless, have to be changes in social structures, because injustice is the cause of the problem, but armed struggle is not the way".

Reagan claims US economy is turning

From Michael Hamlyn, Los Angeles, March 4

President Reagan went to his home state of California yesterday and decided to accentuate the positive. He declared that his Administration's economic policies were already beginning to work.

Addressing an audience of conservative California local government officials he launched his most powerful defence so far of his new federalism proposal.

Looking on the bright side, he told the audience, which included his daughter Maureen, a candidate in the Senate elections later this year, of the indicators pointing towards his success.

"In fact, it has fallen faster than anyone predicted, 8.9 per cent average for 1981 and only about 4.5 per cent for the past three months."

"Savings are up and the main incentives to save are just coming on line. What does that mean to the economy? Well, a 1 per cent increase in personal savings and \$20,000m (£11,000m) in the investment pool of available capital."

"The prime interest rate, while still too high, has declined by 20 per cent. There may be some minor fluctuations, but the interest rate trend line is downward."

He declared that the economy was now poised for recovery and added: "It does prove that the medicine is beginning to work."

The President set about rallying the defence of his budget proposals, which are being attacked on all sides, even by his friends.

He admitted concern over the nearly \$100,000m budget deficit he is proposing. "It's certainly taking its toll on the nerves of those in Capitol Hill," he said. But he defended that too, pointing out that past deficits represented a far larger proportion of gross national product than his proposals.

"In the years we were coming out of the 1974 recession, deficits averaged 3.5 per cent of Gross National Product. Our projected deficit — big as it is — will only be 2.7 per cent of GNP."

Then he broadened the budget deficit argument into a wide ranging defence of his

new federalism proposals, linking the increased federal spending to the "expanding federal monolith".

He defended the concept of returning governmental decision to local authorities with appropriate quotations from Thomas Jefferson, Chief Justice John Marshall, Calvin Coolidge and Will Rogers.

The new federalism so far has failed to excite much interest among the American public. The main fear of the proposal has been that it would be a cover for back spending programmes, but Mr Reagan and his supporters have been at pains to show that there will be no losers. "While there are no losers," Mr Reagan said today, "the people will be the winners."

The President referred to a column written by David Broder, a normally implacable enemy of Reaganism, writing in *The Washington Post*, the most hostile of the establishment newspapers.

He said: "A major news columnist recently pointed out some politicians and pundits don't take the issue of federalism seriously. Many of them, he suggested, simply don't realize how fed up grassroots Americans are with the centralization of power and resources in Washington. The columnist concluded that it would be a political mistake to brush aside federalism." The President added: "Well, bless his little typewriter!"

Mr Reagan referred to the fears of some people raised in an era when states' rights was a cover phrase for racism. "For the record," he said, "the new federalism is not meant to be and will not be permitted to be a step backward in the nation's commitment to civil rights."

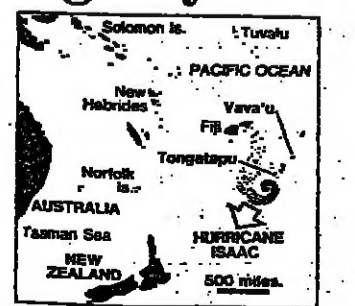
In praising the development of voluntary service throughout local authority work the President announced the appointment of a private sector survey chief who will root out inefficiency and the waste of taxpayers' dollars in the federal Government. The new chairman of the survey is Mr Peter Grace, chairman and chief executive of the chemical company W. R. Grace.

Cyclone-stricken islands face food emergency

Sydney, March 4. — Five Australian Air Force transport aircraft left tonight with relief supplies for the Pacific island kingdom of Tonga, where at least two people have died in a cyclone, officials said.

Most telephone lines to the islands have been cut by Cyclone Isaac, although officials confirmed that two children had been killed and seven were missing and feared drowned.

The Australian Broadcasting Commission, which managed to make telephone contact with the islands today, said 50 people had been treated for injuries. The news editor of Tonga radio said in an interview that there was a desperate need for food and supplies.



All power had been cut on the main island of Nukunono and in the capital, Nukunono, houses had been washed away by flood waters. Most buildings in the town had been damaged by the cyclone, which first hit the Tongan islands on Tuesday night, but is now moving away.

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Palestine dispute jars Mitterrand's Israel visit

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem, March 4

Differences about the Palestinian problem have ended the initial harmony of the first visit to Israel by a French head of state.

During a special session of the Knesset Parliament today, M. François Mitterrand, the French President, and Mr Menachem Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, dwelt at length on their diametrically opposed views about a possible solution.

M. Mitterrand reiterated his strongly held opinion that it was wrong for outsiders to interfere in the Middle East problem. He said the task of finding an answer should be left to the peoples of the region. "France will not act as an arbitrator or as a mediator."

M. Mitterrand addressed the chamber from the podium used by the late President Sadat in November 1977.

Mr Begin replied from a wheelchair positioned by his usual seat, but the hip injury he is suffering from did nothing to diminish the fierceness of his rhetoric.

He denied that the setting up of a Palestinian state in the West Bank would provide

symmetric justice. "Can the people of France really allow themselves, after all that has happened during the Second World War, to render support to the design of handing over the mountains of Judea and Samaria to an enemy bent on our destruction, as itself proclaims in its infamous charter."

Repeating what had been said during private meetings with the French, Mr Begin described the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) charter as the "Arab edition of Mein Kampf".

He quoted from an exchange which he said took place in London two weeks ago between "Mr el-Hassan, 'Arafat' [the PLO leader] and a correspondent of the Israeli newspaper *Devar*."

Mr el-Hassan was quoted as saying: "Zionism is the Satan. We don't negotiate with it."

On Israel, he allegedly said: "If it is based on the Zionist doctrine, then it has no right of existence, and we have no intention of negotiating with it."

Mr Begin, after emphasizing the importance of the new rapport with France that has been established by M. Mitterrand's election and now his visit, described French support for a Palestinian state as the main obstacle in the path to the renewal of friendship between the two countries.

M. Mitterrand said in his 35-minute address that he did not take a strong stand on who did and who did not represent the Palestinians. But he asked how the PLO could expect to sit at the negotiating table while it denied Israel's right to exist.

The French leader, who had avoided reference to the Palestinian question during the first day of his visit, said the essential conditions for negotiations between Israelis and Arabs were "preliminary and mutual recognition, and mutual renunciation of direct and indirect war".

Later M. Claude Cheysson, the French Foreign Minister, who had come in for criticism during Mr Begin's address, held private talks with a number of West Bank leaders, including two of the most radical mayors, Mr Bassam Shaka, of Nablus and Mr Karim Khalef, of Ramallah.

The Arab leaders who also included Mr Elias Freij, Mayor of Bethlehem, had previously said that Mr Arafat should meet M. Mitterrand.



Welcome to India: Mrs Indira Gandhi greeting President Karamanlis of Greece in Delhi at the start of his four-day state visit.

Union fears grow in Greece

From Mario Modiano, Athens, March 4

International labour organizations have expressed grave concern over the abrupt changes of leadership in the Greek trade union movement after the Socialist Government came to power.

A combined delegation from the European Trade Unions and the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, which just spent 24 hours in Athens, raised the matter with Mr Andreas Papandreu, the Greek Prime Minister.

The crisis broke out when unions affiliated with the ruling Socialists challenged before a tribunal

the validity of the elections at the nationwide labour congress in October.

These unions obtained a court injunction deposing the elected leaders of the Greek General Confederation of Labour and appointing a new executive dominated by pro-Government union officials.

The verdict of the tribunal has not been issued but the appointed confederation leadership took over the delicate negotiations with employers' associations on the national pay scales.

The Higher Arbitration Court fixed minimum wages

at 825 drachmas (£7.50) yesterday and the lowest monthly salary in the private sector at 18,580 drachmas (£169).

This tallies exactly with the increases granted by the Government in the public sector. It was known that the Socialist Cabinet was particularly anxious that these levels should not be exceeded as they could upset economic planning.

Opposition critics have accused the Papandreu Government of engineering the takeover of the confederation to neutralize pressures from its left and its right.

Convention fails to halt mass murder

By Caroline Moorehead

The Genocide Convention, drafted in the aftermath of the Second World War by signatories universally horrified at the devastation caused by the Nazis, has significantly failed to eradicate what they termed an "odious scourge" against mankind, according to a new report published by the Minority Rights Group, International Action Against Genocide.

Not merely has it failed to prevent numerous massacres after decolonization, and the mass murder of political groups, but the need for international protection against genocide is more urgent than ever.

Professor Leo Kuper, author of the report, begins by enumerating different variations of the crime. There is, he says, "domestic genocide" by which he means that of indigenous people, victims of predatory economic development (the Ache Indians of Paraguay); of tribal minorities after decolonization (the Hutu of Burundi); of racial groups during struggles for autonomy (Bangladesh); or against scapegoat groups (the Armenians by the Turks).

But there are also, he argues, the political mass murders, the deportations under Stalin, the slaughter in Uganda — wrongly excluded from the convention. These are, he says, "routine instruments of despotic power".

That the United Nations convention has failed is not

really in question. Professor Kuper attributes this however not merely to the ambiguities of definition — to ensure ratification the massive slaughter of political groups and cultural genocide were both omitted from the final convention — but also to the emphasis on punishment (so far totally ineffective) rather than prevention.

Given the United Nations inability to act, Professor Kuper advocates some sort of early warning screening system to prevent genocidal conflicts occurring, the appointment of a High Commissioner for Human Rights, the eventual setting up of an international penal court, and the continuing efforts of non-governmental human rights organizations everywhere, working to keep such atrocities ever before the public eye.

International Action Against Genocide is the MRG's fifty-third report and appears as the organization celebrates its tenth anniversary. Born in the wake of Biafra, MRG set out to do for minorities what Amnesty International does for individuals: bring to the attention of the world the light of persecuted groups. Like Amnesty, it has tried to report on all geographic and political systems, in as impartial a way as possible.

International Action Against Genocide, by Professor Leo Kuper (£1.20 plus 30p postage) and the other reports can be bought from MRG, 36 Craven Street, London WC2.

Gaddafi threatens to go to war with US

From Robert Fisk, Beirut, March 4

Colonel Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, appears to be on the verbal warpath once again. Only a day after he claimed that the United States had conspired with Saudi Arabia to starve Libya of its oil market, he announced in Tripoli today that if the oil embargo is not lifted, he will violate Libya's territorial waters and go to war with the United States.

"If America enters the Bay of Sidra [Sirte]," he told a rally in the Libyan capital, "war in the full sense of the word will begin between us and them, war with planes, navies, missiles and everything."

In August last year, two American fighters shot down two Libyan Air Force jets over the Gulf of Sirte during United States naval manoeuvres in the Mediterranean.

The incident was followed by a series of antagonistic speeches by Colonel Gaddafi against the American Government, an onslaught which President Reagan's Administration obligingly returned in kind.

The Libyan leader long ago realized that to be a public enemy of the United States was to gain the favour of Third World countries and left-wing Arab nations. The Americans have never failed to support this image by denouncing the colonel as a terrorist leader.

Angered by what he regarded as an American boycott of Libyan oil sales in the United States, Colonel Gaddafi said that he would

"be ready to sit down face to face and negotiate with America to discuss what we can do to establish relations between two countries in this world."

But this boycott... is unreasonable in international relations because America is a big power and its relations with smaller countries should be unbiased. America should have self-respect and not attack a small country like Libya which has only two to three million inhabitants."

American tend to regard Colonel Gaddafi's latest fulminations as a product of the mouse that roared, but this is only half the truth. For there has been an important shift in the loyalty of Libya's publicly proclaimed Arab enemies.

In the past, the Egyptian leadership has always formed the object of Colonel Gaddafi's hatred with Saudi Arabia's monarchy running a close second. Now Saudi Arabia is being portrayed as an American lackey while mention of the Egyptian Government has disappeared.

It seems that Colonel Gaddafi is looking forward to some kind of rapprochement with the Egyptians under President Mubarak, at the expense of Saudi Arabia.

The Saudis, according to the Libyan leader, were trying to "drown" the world oil market in crude oil at the cheapest price because they wanted to "starve" Libya.

"Saudi Arabia has declared a war of famine, an economic war against us," he said.

37 Sinai families evicted

From Moshe Brilliant, Tel Aviv, March 4

Security forces stepped up the eviction of Israeli squatters from Sinai settlements before the scheduled return of the territory to Egypt on April 26. Buses took 37 families from three settlements today.

The expected rush of Stop the Withdrawal activists to resist the evictions did not materialize. A few approached, but were turned away. The evicted put up token resistance.

At Talmi Yosef, where 22 families were removed, petrol-soaked rags were set ablaze at one entrance to the village and a car parked across a road at another. In the afternoon the forces evicted more people from near Abraham and from Maoz Hayan.

Bona fide residents of the villages are being allowed to stay until March 31. Most accepted compensation and are committed to move. The squatters have taken over farms and houses of families who have been moved to Israel.

An activist said anti-withdrawal movement's moderation was tactical: it was decided to avoid overt confrontations with the Army, but to smuggle supporters past road blocks and into the region at night.

Rabbi Meir Kahane, the Jewish Defence League leader, arrived today at Yamit, the main Sinai settlement, and said he was setting up a new headquarters and wanted volunteers to "meet force with force".

Witnesses said soldiers arrived at the settlements today without arms. The squatters delayed evictions but troops were patient. Women soldiers helped the families to pack and men helped to load lorries. The squatters were taken to Beersheba.

At Talmi Yosef the eviction was held up as some families produced papers stating that they were bona fide residents. One settler was detained. Suspects of forging identity papers.

Radiation kills atom plant man

Toronto, March 4. — An Ontario nuclear worker has died because of radiation in his work, a spokesman for Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd said today. Another worker at the same plant had a disability award for cancer believed to have been caused or aggravated by radiation.

Both have been long serving employees at the Atomic Energy of Canada nuclear reactor research centre at Chalk River, Ontario, near Ottawa.

The company's admission of radiation-related cancers among its former workers could have important implications for the industry, for standards of radiation exposure and for hundreds of nuclear workers in Canada and abroad.

The two men developed typical radiation-related cancers although they never received more than the current maximum permissible dose of radiation during their years at Chalk River. Both received Ontario Workmen's Compensation Board awards in 1981 based on the company's acknowledgement to the board that their exposure to radiation was possible or contributing cause of their cancers.

One man retired in 1981 after 28 years as a radiation worker. He was diagnosed as having cancer of the skin and neck. The other retired earlier after 31 years' service and was confirmed as suffering from leukaemia.

Chalk River's 2,200 workers were briefed earlier in the week about the cases, the spokesman said. He added: "We have always believed there was an increased risk of cancer due to radiation exposure."

CORRECTIONS
A report from Warsaw published on March 3 stated that the Palestinian Abu Daoud was shot dead last year. He survived the attack.

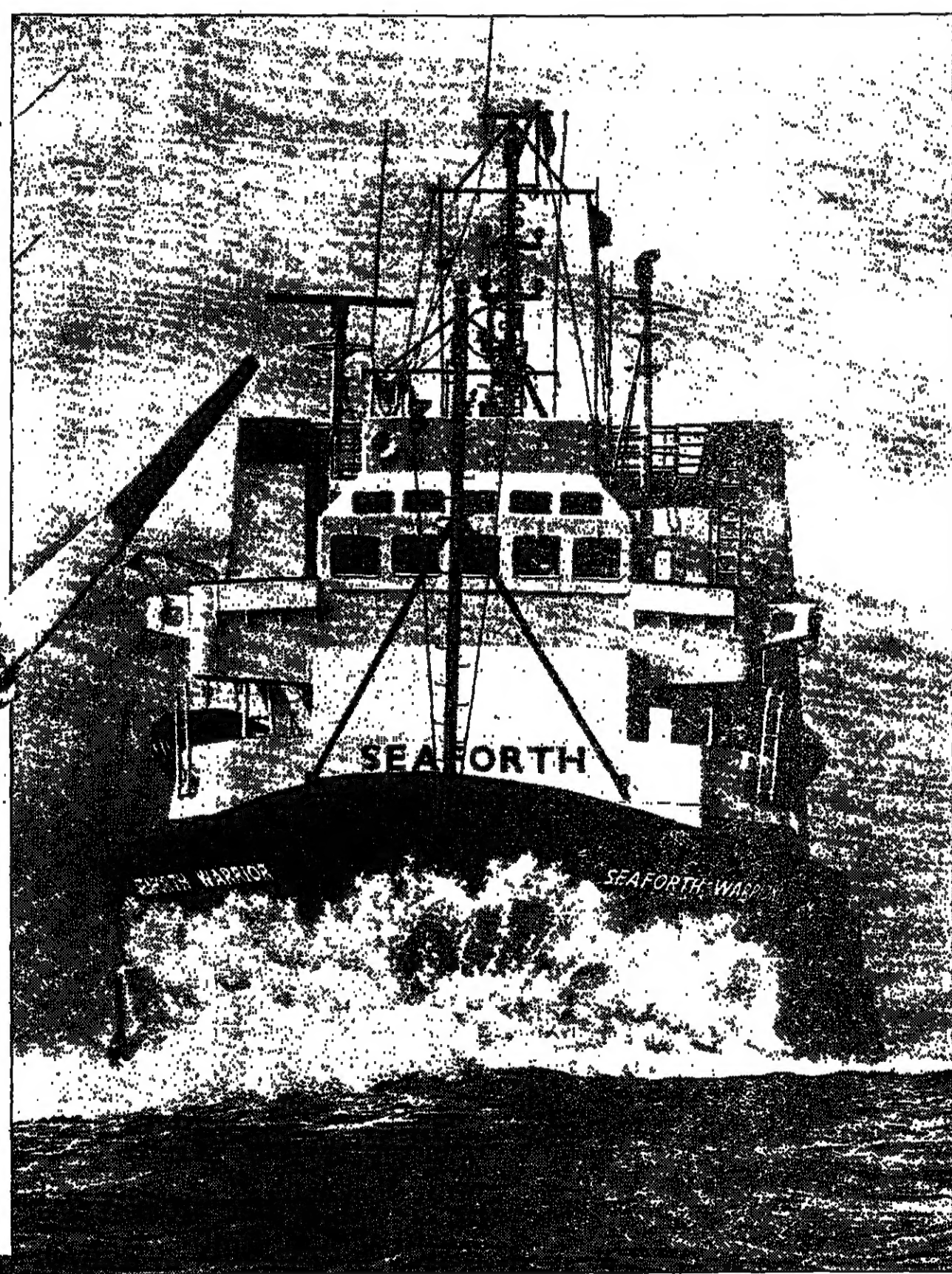
A Washington report yesterday should have stated that \$218.3m (£110m) allocated for space defence represented less than 0.01 per cent of the proposed budget.

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Why a construction company which went to sea is raising sails on land.

Work will soon begin on the construction of a giant 'windmill' to generate power into the grid system on Orkney. With a height of 75 metres it has two rotating blades whose overall diameter is 60 metres. This one machine will eventually supply the islanders with electricity equivalent to the requirements of over one thousand homes.

Projects like Orkney will make Britain world leader in this form of alternative energy source, a field in which Taylor Woodrow has already

played a significant role in the development, civil engineering and construction of six nuclear power stations.

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New effort to find Namibia formula

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington, March 4

The five-nation Western contact group is to make a new attempt within the next few days to resolve a problem which is holding up final agreement on the first phase of their revised settlement plan for Namibia (South-West Africa).

The problem centres on the "one-man-two-votes" proposal for constituent assembly elections which will precede the granting of independence to the disputed territory.

Under this dual election system half the seats in the constituent assembly would be filled by proportional representation and the other half by single-member constituencies. The aim is to make it more difficult for the South West Africa People's Organization (Swapo) to obtain the two-thirds majority in the assembly needed for constitutional changes and thereby to provide assurances to South Africa that the territory's 100,000 whites that minority rights will be protected.

The proposal has been accepted by South Africa but rejected by Swapo and the black "front line" states. The five members of the contact group — Britain, the United States, France, West Germany and Canada — are now considering ways to get around this impasse.

One option would be for the contact group to go back to the black states and try to convince them that the election plan is not as complicated as it appears and

will not produce a result that is undemocratic.

Another option would be for the five Western nations to ask South Africa to accept a revised election procedure. This would not go down well with Pretoria which in the past has accused the Western nations of double-dealing and of going back on points which had already been agreed.

Only when agreement had been reached on this issue can talks begin in earnest on the second phase of the Western plan involving the actual setting up of elections. This more complex task is expected to be even more difficult than the first phase.

Meanwhile, Mr David Rockefeller, the retired chairman of the Chase Manhattan Bank, has called for a resumption of diplomatic relations between the United States and the Marxist regime in Angola. He said during a 10-nation African tour he did not think African Marxism threatened American interests.

The United States has linked the establishment of normal relations with the withdrawal of between 15,000 and 20,000 Cuban troops from Angola.

□ Pretoria: South Africa denied an official Angolan report that Swapo guerrillas had destroyed a South African base at Okavango in Namibia in a battle last Saturday (AFP reports). A Defence Ministry spokesman said there was no such camp.

Indonesia 'banished' 4,000 to island

Jakarta, March 4.—Indonesia transported 4,000 people from East Timor to a tiny island after a military operation against East Timor Guerrillas of the Fretilin independence movement, a Red Cross official said today.

Mr David Delapraz, an International Red Cross regional delegate, added that he and a team from the organization last month interviewed some of the 806 families, moved in 1981 and now officially described as temporarily displaced.

He refused to comment on their condition. They were seen by his team on Atauro Island, in the South Banda sea 20 miles from Dili, capital of East Timor, the former Portuguese colony.

The annexation, not recognized by the United Nations, was followed by fighting between Indonesian troops and Fretilin guerrillas which has continued intermittently. Mr Delapraz said the Red Cross would give the Indonesian Government tomorrow a confidential report.

Mr Delapraz said the Red Cross, concerned by possible victims among the civil population, first asked to visit Atauro in October amid reports that many people had been displaced in an East Timor military sweep.

Indonesian officials said most of the East Timor nationals moved there had been sent for security reasons and some for their own protection. — Reuters.



Child's play: A youthful member of Chad's regular Army ready for battle with insurgents.

Peruvian province declares state of emergency

Lima, March 4. — The Peruvian province of Ayacucho has declared a state of emergency for the second time in six months after 14 people were killed in an attack on a prison by left-wing guerrillas in which more than 200 inmates were freed.

Constitutional guarantees were suspended and large numbers of police with extra powers of search and arrest were rushed to the provincial capital 190 miles south east of Lima.

Officials said 12 guerrillas and two prison guards were killed when attackers armed with machine guns and dynamite stormed the prison on Tuesday.

The assault, by suspected members of a Maoist group called Sendero Luminoso (Light Path), was the most serious incident of guerrilla violence since the restoration of democracy 19 months ago.

General José Gagliardi, the Interior Minister, said: "We are faced with a force which

is much better prepared than we thought".

Ayacucho, a remote, Andean mountain province, has been the focus of extremist violence since President Fernando Belaunde Terry assumed office in July, 1980 after 12 years of military rule.

A 60-day state of emergency was imposed in the province last October after a rash of bomb attacks. Police rounded up hundreds of suspects and claimed to have

eradicated most of the guerrilla cells.

The province's calm was shattered on Sunday when a first attempt was made to free the guerrilla suspects from Ayacucho's jail. Four prisoners were killed and an escape was foiled.

Two nights later about 150 guerrillas took part in the second assault. Using dynamite to blast open the prison gates, they burst inside chanting "Long live the armed struggle" and "Long live communism". — Reuters.

Hongkong Bahais petition for asylum

From Our Correspondent Hongkong, March 4

Several Iranians of the Baha'i faith living in Hongkong are seeking sanctuary in other countries after being ordered by the Tehran Government to return home to face charges over unspecified crimes.

The group, believed to number less than a dozen among the estimated 1,500 Bahais in Hongkong, are seeking status in Hongkong and elsewhere, fearing they will be the next victims of a "religious purge with political significance" if they return to Iran, Mr Steve Townsend, their Hongkong spokesman, said.

At least 100 Bahais — whose religious sect believes in the oneness of God, world government, sexual equality and the importance of education — have been executed in Iran under the Islamic regime.

The Hongkong Bahais, who strongly deny any anti-revolution actions, fear execution by firing squad as "Zionist agents" if they return to Iran. "Iranian Bahais have always been labelled as supporters of the Zionist group and anti-revolutionaries", Mr Townsend said.

The Iranian consulate in Hongkong, which confirms the recalls, has told the group that their passports will not be renewed when they expire next month.

Yugoslavia warns Belgium

From Dena Trevisan Belgrade, March 4

The Yugoslav Government has reacted strongly to the attack by gunmen in Brussels, in which two Yugoslavs were killed and several wounded, by accusing the Belgian authorities of doing nothing to hinder terrorist attacks.

In a sharply worded protest that reflects serious apprehension at continuing anti-Yugoslav activities, especially since last year's ethnic riots in the Kosovo region, the Yugoslav Government gave a warning that relations between Belgrade and Brussels were being seriously affected.

Yesterday the gunmen walked into the Yugoslav cultural club in Brussels, pulled out a sub-machine gun, killed two men and injured at least three others, and escaped in a waiting car.

Yugoslavia now claims that despite its warning to Belgium of continuing acts of terrorism against Yugoslav diplomats and migrant workers the Belgian authorities have failed to take matters more firmly in hand. Belgrade also accused the Belgians of leniency, which is regarded here as encouraging incidents like yesterday's.

Behind this apprehension lies the fact that the Yugoslavs have been expecting some serious demonstration by ethnic Albanians to mark the anniversary of the Kosovo riots which began last March at the university there.

Since then there has been a series of incidents in Belgium against Yugoslav diplomats and institutions: a bomb exploded in the Yugoslav Airlines office, there was arson in the Yugoslav tourist bureau, and several clubs of Yugoslav migrant workers were attacked, culminating in the assassination of a member of the Yugoslav embassy.

Church tells of torture in Bolivia

From John Enders La Paz, March 4

The Roman Catholic Church in Bolivia says it has proof that prisoners in the paramilitary security jail of La Paz are regularly subjected to brutal torture despite President Celso Torrello Villa's pledge that his government fully respects human rights.

The allegations are contained in a written report to the bishops' meeting in Santa Cruz de la Sierra from the archdiocese's ecumenical aid office, established to aid political prisoners and their families.

It says the 80 prisoners in the La Paz jail have been tortured in recent days: "The statistical balance of repression shows that, far from having entered a period of social peace, the population overall lives subjected to the constant threat of arrest and torture."

Several Argentine advisers and at least one Italian citizen were said to be members of the interrogation teams working with the security apparatus here since the military seized power in July, 1980, in a coup led then by former-president Luis Garcia Meza.

General Torrello came to power on September 4 but many observers, including foreign diplomats and military men in the Government, say he is not fully in control of the security agents working with the Interior Ministry.

Those sources say that Señor Freddy Quiroga, who heads the feared paramilitary apparatus once called the SES (Servicio Especial de Seguridad) but now renamed DIE (Direccion de Inteligencia del Estado) is for all practical purposes a man out of control.

He has been head of one paramilitary force or another for years.

Fugitive for 38 years faces firing squad

From Michael Binyon Moscow, March 4

For 38 years Maksim Poltavets escaped retribution for his part in the wartime execution of villagers by German occupation forces in the Ukraine. When the Red Army swept in to liberate his village, he shut himself away in his house, and he remained there in virtual darkness until a few weeks ago.

Now an old man of 71, he was discovered by neighbours and hauled before a village meeting, where several older people accused him of serving as a policeman with the Germans and killing the villagers of Novogelitsko and a group of Red Army soldiers. They voted to put him on trial. If found guilty, he will probably be shot.

A generation after the end of the war, fugitives are still being discovered in hiding. Last year the authorities found a 61-year-old man, almost blind, unshaven and dressed in rags, who had been hidden in a bunker by his family when Nazi troops withdrew from the Lvov region in 1944. He had worked for the occupation forces as a bricklayer and was branded as a collaborator by the local population.

Eventually his father and other close relatives died, and when police led him into daylight he had lost all sense of time. Unusually, it was decided not to punish him for the "misdeemeanours of his youth" and work was found for the old and broken man. But others do not escape

retribution. The Soviet Union is merciless in the pursuit of war criminals, and there is no statute of limitations to protect the guilty. Every year about a dozen people are shot for crimes committed 40 years ago.

Many war criminals are brought to light by mistake in investigation by the KGB security police and the study of captured wartime documents. In the turmoil of the German retreat from Russia, many of the thousands of collaborators managed to slip away and change their documents and identities.

The Russians frequently accuse the West of harbouring war criminals and being deliberately slack in prosecuting them. But the Soviet authorities are quick to cooperate in providing evidence for trials in the West.

In 1980 American government lawyers, investigating naturalized Americans suspected of having served as camp guards and policemen with the Nazis, were given help and documents here which they said could lead to the deportation of up to 350 people.

The Presidential Commission on the Jewish Holocaust was offered wide-ranging help in the Soviet Union. Three years ago the American Attorney-General told the Jewish organization B'nai B'rith that he had not had so much support in seeking war criminals from any other country.



To the 92 MPs of Greater London.

The Fares Fair Policy, introduced for Londoners on October 4th 1981, was meant to make the public transport systems more accessible to everyone. It increased efficiency through greater use of the available services. It allowed simpler, lower fares.

On March 21st 1982, fares will go up, signalling the end of what was a bold and imaginative piece of planning.

If nothing is done before March 21st, there will be some dramatic changes to the costs and quality of working and travelling in London. Fares will double. Uneconomic tube stations may close. Some bus services may have to go altogether. All services will be reduced.

Higher fares will result in more people driving to work, simply because their car will be cheaper to use. London's streets will be more jammed. There will be more rogue parking. More chaos. More accidents.

Is that fair on London?

Most other cities in the modern world have decided long ago that public transport is a social service. As much a social service as hospitals and education.

New York subsidises to the tune of 72% of costs, excluding depreciation and renewal costs.

On the same basis, the figure for Milan is 71%, Brussels 70%, Paris 56%.

London, with the Fares Fair Policy, subsidised its public transport system by 46% — still way down in the League Table.

And, following the rulings of the Court of Appeal and the Law Lords, the subsidy figure for London's public transport will fall, after March 21st, to as little as 12%.

The cost of Fares Fair to the London ratepayer was almost doubled by the penalties imposed by the Government withholding block grant.

Is this fair on Londoners?

The issue of London's public transport system demands your immediate attention. It is not a political "football". It is a social issue with enormous implications on the present and future quality of life in London.

Changes to the law are necessary. Rational thinking makes that fact obvious.

Do you know how your own constituents feel about London Transport? Its value to the community as a whole? Its relevance to working and living in London in 1982? As ratepayers, as travellers — as Londoners?

We are asking them to contact you. Give them a fair hearing. And, as their elected representatives, act on their behalf for the good of London.

If you think your MP may miss this announcement, why not send it to him expressing your views? Fill in the coupon.

To: The Member of Parliament for
House of Commons, Westminster, London, SW1A 0AA.
I call on the Government to take immediate action to enable the GLC to maintain its present low fares policy without any reduction in services.

NAME.....
ADDRESS.....

Tell your MP to act NOW!

GLC
Working for London

School indiscipline: an end to corporal punishment and how teachers control bad behaviour

How do they keep order in class?

Indiscipline in schools has become an urgent topic since the suspension of teaching at St Saviour's C of E School in Tosthite, Liverpool, after riots by children under 12 years old. Meanwhile, the European Court of Human Rights has ruled that parents should give permission before children are beaten by teachers. And it is only the first of a series of judgments which will abolish the cane in British schools.

Caning and the European Court

The judges who will put a stop to whacking

The days of beatings — "le vice anglais", as it is known on the Continent — are numbered, at least in the classroom. Although there has been pressure for decades to abolish caning, it is the intervention of European judges sitting in Strasbourg to hammer the final nail into what has remained a remarkably lively coffin.

If last week's judgment by the European Court of Human Rights does not persuade the Government to abolish corporal punishment once and for all, a cluster of cases now in Strasbourg or about to go are bound to force its hand. This is because last week's decision did not actually look at whether beating was wrong in itself. It concerned two Scottish cases — those of Gordon Campbell and Jeffrey Cosans — who had not been beaten. Cosans was told to report for the belt after he had broken a school rule but the refusal and was suspended from school. Campbell's mother had asked the regional education authority for an assurance that her son would not be belted but this was refused.

The European judges did not therefore rule on whether beating was an inhuman or degrading punishment contrary to Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights. But they did rule that another provision of the convention had been breached: that parents have the right to have their children educated in conformity with their own religious and philosophical convictions. This means that parents now have the right to refuse to allow their children to be beaten at school.

Other cases lodged with the European Commission (this human rights structure has, incidentally, nothing to do with the EEC) are likely to result in full-scale abolition because they concern other Scottish boys, Peter Brock, who received one stroke of the belt, allegedly for laughing in class. He was 15 at the time and attending Crieff High School, in Tayside.

Initially Brock refused to take the belt and says it was only after vigorous interrogation by the headmaster, Mr. John Green, after he had been forced to sign a confession, that he agreed to be hit. He says he was forced to stand in the school entrance for some time while he thought about it and that he was excluded from school for several days. Eventually Brock left school before taking his O grades, the Scottish public exams, because he could stand the school no longer. His lawyers will be arguing that the incident affected his career prospects and that he should be handsomely compensated.

A second case, which is about to be filed in Strasbourg, concerns Alan Green, who at the age of 14 was caned and then slipped at his school, Abbs Cross comprehensive in the outer London borough of Havering. When he first started at the school his mother, Sylvia Green, wrote to the chairman of the education committee, the chief education officer and the school saying she did not want him beaten. She was informed he

● No other European country in the Eastern or Western block — officially retains corporal punishment in its schools as the British do, though it is thought unofficially being done on in some places.

On the Continent the practice has been abolished by legislative regulation or by falling into disuse. Apart from the United Kingdom, the last country in Europe to allow the beating of schoolchildren was the Republic of Ireland which banned the cane on February 1, this year.

The number of canings at Eaglesfield comprehensive school in Woolwich, south London, was averaging about 200 a term until corporal punishment was banned by the Inner London Education Authority almost exactly a year ago. Dr William Chapman, the head, was a great believer in the effectiveness of the cane as a means of maintaining a high standard of discipline throughout the school.

"We used it mostly for trivial offences like swearing, petty extortion, smoking, deliberate disobedience, bullying, and vandalism. Now we're using exclusion, or temporary suspension, instead of the cane. I feel sending a child home is far more damaging than a quick smack over the bottom, and the amount of teacher time involved is incredible. At the moment we're keeping our standards up, but my God at what a cost!" Dr Chapman said.

Yet, when pressed, Dr Chapman admits that apart from the extra pressure on teacher time, nothing seems to have changed much in the school, for better or worse, since the canings stopped. And that seems to be the experience of pro-caning heads in other parts of the country where corporal punishment has already been abolished.

So perhaps the decisions, past and imminent, of the European Court of Human Rights at Strasbourg, which are likely to herald the end of Britain's solitary position as the last caning nation in Europe, will much less effect school discipline and standards of behaviour than many teachers, and parents, fear.

But it is sense to impose a ban on a punishment which has been abolished in the majority of European countries, and which is now being used by a small group of teachers who are not representative of the profession as a whole, but is nevertheless firmly opposed to a dicta being delivered from Strasbourg.

It feels the issue has been hyped up quite out of perspective. An awful lot of nonsense is talked by both the opponents and supporters of corporal punishment. It's nothing like so important as people make out. It is neither as dangerous or as effective as it's said to be. I think schools should be allowed to decide for themselves what form of discipline suits them best.

Many schools have found that corporal punishment has been doing a good job. Mr. David Silke, Warden of Radley, said he used to use the cane, but it's just gone out of fashion. People are reluctant to indulge in something which only 15 years ago was very normal. We've never said we won't use it, but I don't think I myself have beaten a boy for five years. I don't feel terribly strongly about it, but I think I now feel that it's slightly distasteful.

Mr Tim Mardell, head of High Street comprehensive school in Sheffield, argues that any change



Beak and birch: Spy's caricature of Swinburne's tutor, the Reverend James Leigh Jones, Lower Master of Eton 1878-1887.

involving attitudes needs time to be introduced. He started to reduce caning when he arrived at the school 15½ years ago, and only just completed its abolition 18 months ago. Fourteen years may be considered rather excessive, but some time is important to gain the acceptance of teachers, parents and pupils.

"It's best to get rid of corporal punishment slowly, quietly and without a fuss," Mr Mardell says. "It's no good rushing it. When pupils are used to being beaten, they expect it. If they're not beaten, they assume that it is somehow an indication of weakness on the part of the school."

Other schools in Sheffield will not enjoy such a leisurely transition: the council has just

been told and brought into school for an interview with the head teacher, and that can result in a worse thrashing for the child than he would ever have got at school. However, other schools say that many of their pupils are all too happy to get a few free days off school. It also disrupts the education of those who probably need it most.

The ultimate sanction, which may only be used with the approval of the school governors, is the suspension or expulsion of the child. Although a complete change of environment can produce a beneficial change in behaviour, particularly where a gang of miscreants are broken up, suspension is not liked and is used extremely sparingly. It involves a public admission by the school that it has failed with that child, and also too often, the suspended child is left free to roam the streets for some months on end before another school willing to accept him is found.

Another means of dealing with disruptive pupils has become increasingly popular over the last few years: the special behavioural unit, either on the school premises or off-site, which has been dubbed the "sin-bin" by the popular press. Some are no better than their nickname suggests, convenient dumping ground for unruly pupils; others do an excellent job in winning the children's confidence and trust, and getting regular attendance.

All are limited in their usefulness, however. The ratio of staff to pupils and, being relatively small, can only offer a very restricted educational diet with the result that it becomes increasingly difficult to get pupils back into ordinary schooling the longer they stay. The HMI Inspectorate for schools (HMI) view is that pupils should only be removed from school as a last resort.

So what can schools do to maintain good discipline? People were synonymous with sanctions; it is not, no more than good discipline in the home is. It depends, as in the home, on the many, often not easily discernable, factors that make up on the whole climate of the school, or what has become known since Professor Michael Rutter's now world famous research on the effect of secondary schools, as the "ethos" of the school.

Professor Rutter found in his intensive, longitudinal study of 12 inner London schools, pupils who were still much to learn about what makes a good school and why. How individual teachers handle potentially disruptive pupils is one of the areas about which we know little. Dr Williams Parry-Jones, consultant psychiatrist at the Warneford Hospital in Oxford, who has been carrying out research in that area, says that nearly all teachers see disruptive behaviour as a product of the pupil's disturbance, while he believes that it is part of a dynamic relationship between the teacher and the pupil.

The pupil may initiate an incident with some relatively minor act, but from then on the teacher plays a very important part in exacerbating or abating the incident. Once it has started, it seems to develop a life of its own, as it were, which may however be modified by the response from the teacher or the pupil. We've analysed that sequence in great detail on videotape, looking for the critical transition points at which matters might either improve or get out of control. I think disruption can be handled effectively, and that teachers can be trained to do so, but virtually no teacher training course provides that training."

Diana Geddes
Education Correspondent

The practice abroad: most have abandoned the British need to beat

Outside Europe, however, corporal punishment is fairly widespread and continues in the USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and much of the Third World. STOPP, the Society of Teachers Opposed to Physical Punishment, points out that these countries are former British colonies.

The USA
In America only four states and 11 cities have abolished corporal punishment though in one or two other states parents' objections must be honoured. Five years ago the

US Supreme Court gave its seal of approval to the cane by ruling that its use as a disciplinary tool was not cruel and unusual punishment, denying children so disciplined protection under the Eighth Amendment of the Constitution.

The case, *Ingraham v Wright*, was a case of a father and a possible margin (five votes to four). In reality corporal punishment is not widely used in the USA and tends to be concentrated in certain areas, such as the deep South.

Canada
Three out of Canada's 10 provinces have abolished corporal punishment and in Australia it is universal except in Queensland where it has been abolished for girls and in New South Wales where parental objections must be upheld.

Europe
By contrast, four European countries — Greece, Italy, Iceland and Luxembourg — say that corporal punishment has never been allowed in their schools. In Poland it was abolished in 1783 and in

The Netherlands it fell into disuse early last century. Corporal punishment was made illegal in Belgium in 1867, in Austria in 1870 and in France in 1881. It was abolished in the Soviet Union in 1917, immediately after the Bolshevik Revolution, and in Turkey in 1923 after the declaration of the Republic. By contrast, flogging with the cat o' nine tails and the birch was only abolished in English prisons in 1976.

Some European countries abolished corporal punishment in schools in the same year. Cyprus, Denmark

and Spain acted in 1967. In Germany abolition has been implemented by state rather than federal legislation during the 1970s. Although technically legal in Switzerland, corporal punishment has completely died out in recent years.

It was prohibited in Sweden in 1958 and three years ago the Swedes went even further. They outlawed the beating of children by parents. There are no penalties attached to the new law, however, and prosecutions are brought under existing laws covering assault.

EXHIBITIONS

BARNEYS GALLERY, 48 Regent St. **THE ART OF THE 19TH CENTURY**. Exhibition of 19th-century art, including works by J.M.W. Turner, Eugène Delacroix, and others. March 5-15. Free admission.

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ART GALLERIES

AGNEW GALLERY, 45 Old Bond St. **THE ART OF THE 19TH CENTURY**. Exhibition of 19th-century art, including works by J.M.W. Turner, Eugène Delacroix, and others. March 5-15. Free admission.

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ENTERTAINMENTS

ALBERT, ONEIDA SHOW GUIDE. **ALBERT**, 100 Tottenham Court Rd. **ONEIDA**, 100 Tottenham Court Rd. **SHOW GUIDE**, 100 Tottenham Court Rd. **ALBERT**, 100 Tottenham Court Rd. **ONEIDA**, 100 Tottenham Court Rd. **SHOW GUIDE**, 100 Tottenham Court Rd.

CONCERTS

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THEATRES

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OPERA & BALLET

COLLIERIE, 53-55 Tottenham Court Rd. **OPERA & BALLET**, 53-55 Tottenham Court Rd. **COLLIERIE**, 53-55 Tottenham Court Rd. **OPERA & BALLET**, 53-55 Tottenham Court Rd.

THE ROYAL BALLET

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Television

Recycling exercise

Nick Mead runs an architecture relief service. He moves in with his men when some period piece is being demolished, and removes the memories of craftsmanship long gone.

He told *Forty Minutes*, who covered his activities in *Saves in the Nick of Time* on BBC2 last night, that he did it for money but also because preservation is a worthwhile way of earning a living, and he is entirely convinced. He has learnt that "the bigger the lot, the fewer the customers", but despite this allows romanticism to override economics and even rescues things he knows "have great white elephant potential". One such was a marble fountain with bronze embellishments that could impede progress around his Chelsea warehouse for some time.

He would prefer that Britain retained her relics but as there is not that much money about and as business in any period is business, he has to recycle much of his salvage in America where the appetite for things of yore, anybody's yore, is voracious.

So an old sweeping staircase is packaged for Mrs Douglas's Heaven on Earth establishment in Houston, an interesting-sounding place that caters for the matched and despatched, being both a marriage parlour and a funeral parlour.

We did not see Mrs Douglas — too busy, I should think — but we did see Mrs Bobby Wolfe whose husband, Fletcher, is founder and director of the Atlanta Boy Choir. The boys were singing "Nymphs and Shepherds" out in the garden, which was full of roses and there, including a porch, rescued by Mr Mead from a Victorian house in Beckenham. "Fletcher and I have been recycling since before we were married," confided Mrs Wolfe, and it startled for a moment before the camera moved from her to the trophies.

However, some things do stay at home. We saw a teardrop being hoisted high at Canterbury Cathedral, recycled from a peal of bells from a disused church at Marylebone, and a clock from the same church now in working order. The clock cost £198 10s to make in the middle of the nineteenth century, now it would cost £12,500. It was bargained at £1,500. Then there was the belle époque conservatory which somehow found its way from France to Knightsbridge.

Mr Mead earns his living quite often, as when removing the clock, at some risk. Apart from the feeling that he is doing a good job, it has a certain compensation. "The sound of breaking glass," he said, "can be very satisfying at times". This contribution to the *Forty Minutes* series, which is also to have an extended life, was well produced by Robyn Wallis.

Dennis Hackett

Cinema

Emotional touch of the old master

On Golden Pond (A)

Odeon, Haymarket

Mad Max II (X)

Warner West End; Classic, Haymarket; Studio, Oxford Circus

Imposters

ICA

Dear Boys

Roxie Cinema Club

On *Golden Pond* is a return to a kind of film — the well-made screenplay that uses all its artifice to manipulate the audience's laughter and tears — that long ago went out of style. It also revives the almost forgotten pleasure of yielding up our emotions to be worked over as the body might be submitted to the hands of a skillful masseur. Audiences apparently have only been waiting for the chance. In the United States, *On Golden Pond* has earned \$40m in four weeks, and is impregnable at the top of *Variety's* chart of top-grossing pictures.

Directed by Mark Rydell, it is adapted by Ernest Thompson from his own Broadway play, one of a whole run of productions designed to show the virtuosity of older stars. Henry Fonda and Katharine Hepburn play Norman and Ethel Thayer, an old couple eluding out their last years in a summer cottage by an idyllic forest lake, which harbours a whole lifetime of memories for them. It is his eightieth birthday. "They get here so fast," his body and mind are failing, he fiercely resents the humiliations of age and employs all his invective and wit to rail against them. His wife, ten years younger, is patient, protective and defiant in her energy and enthusiasm for life.

Their daughter, Chelsea (Jane Fonda), arrives for the birthday party, bringing her new fiancé and a host of old acquaintances against her father. She also brings her 12-year-old prospective stepson whom she rashly leaves to spend the summer with the old couple. The rest of the film, of course, is concerned with the understanding that grows up between the hostile child and the grumpy old man — a bond that leapfrogs the generations and, in a gratifying past denouement, achieves the reconciliation between father and daughter that all their years together had failed to bring about.

The daughter, though Jane Fonda uses all her skill, is rather brusquely sketched; but the relationship of the three characters is wonderfully deft in the writing, and admirably played. Henry Fonda and Katharine Hepburn never acted together in their youth (indeed they seem never to have met until they came together on this film), but in their age they are a magical teaming. The poignancy of the characters is heightened by awareness of the actors' own fragility, but physical frailty in no way impairs their professional skills or personal glamour.

He is tetchy, watchful, wily, devastatingly precise in timing and delivery. She soars along on her own momentum and dazzles with radiant intimations of infinite depths of feeling beneath the



A bond that leapfrogs the generations: Doug McKean with Henry Fonda

eccentric surfaces. The small boy, Doug McKean, makes a wholly equal third to the team. He is round-faced, blond, suspicious and wholly believable in the slow, unwilling process of making contact with another and very alien human being.

The reason this kind of piece, in which the manipulation of situation (an accident that puts Norman's life at peril; another near-death scene to bring tears; the day resolution of life-long misunderstandings) and consequently of our sentiments, has been so long mistrusted, is that sentimentality, manipulation and artifice are taken to imply untruth.

But the quality of this film, like a lot of older melodramas, is that the manipulation and artifice only work because the premises on which they are managed are in essence truthful. The characters are unquestionably truthful, and they are used to demonstrate truths as well as to manipulate. There is a lot of real pain in Norman's fear and hatred of age ("I don't want crowds of people watching me turn older," he grouches at the prospect of a birthday party), even when it is expressed in a style and tone that sometimes recall W.C. Fields. There is a sense of real love in their crotchety marital bicker. They tell us, too, that the assumed obligation to like one's relatives can often mean hell; that a quip old man may well have been a younger s.o.b. and now deserves to pay the price for it.

In an old-fashioned and positive sense, too, the film is very moral. It characterises its characters by awareness of the actors' own fragility, but physical frailty in no way impairs their professional skills or personal glamour. He is tetchy, watchful, wily, devastatingly precise in timing and delivery. She soars along on her own momentum and dazzles with radiant intimations of infinite depths of feeling beneath the

Reivers, *Cinderella Liberty* — showed the same direct, persuasive concern with the problems and rewards of simply trying to understand other people. He is generous with charm and pleasures; the performers are given a background of elegant mood and scenery (the lakeland is photographed by Billy Williams in predominant twilight gold). These are the sort of frank and innocent pleasures about which it would be foolish to be superior or defensively sophisticated.

Mad Max II offers the most extreme contrast. The original *Mad Max* was made for peanuts, but the startling skill of its director, George Miller, in directing violent action made it the biggest grossing film Australia had so far exported. The sequel has the benefit of a great deal more money, has a great deal more violent action, handled with the same verve and culminating in a prolonged automobile chase, and carries Australian movies to a new stage of infantism.

The action of the new film takes place a year or so further into the future predicted by its predecessor. Global conflict escalating from the Middle East has wiped out urban civilization. Wild — marauding gangs — ageing punks and cycle boys — roam the outback, and make sorties against a little outpost huddled around a solitary oil drill, the last source of wealth. Into this country rides *Mad Max*, as an unwilling Moses who eventually leads the people to the promised land — the tourist resorts of the Queensland Gold Coast.

It amalgamates every sort of movie myth, magic and reference. The plot is classic Western, and some of the characters are vaguely garbed as braves and squaws. There are touches of martial arts and sword-and-sorcery (the villains wear visors and use crossbows); there is a Shakespearean fool who rides a helicopter; and plays Sancho to Max's Don; and a feral cave-child.

Above all there are the cars — roaring, chasing, colliding, crashing, conflagrating. It is in its way a landmark of the cinema of action without sense.

Mark Rappaport is much admired in certain circles of independent cinema; a couple of years ago his *Scenic Route* won the BFI award for the most original film shown at the National Film Theatre during the previous twelve months. His films exemplify effect and allusion without structure to give coherence or compulsion to the whole.

Imposters, his latest film of feature scale, has the outward form of Hollywood melodrama and is jam-packed with movie-buff references. The twin protagonists are stage illusionists using their act as a front for murder and a quest for lost treasure. One of them fancies his assistant; the other her boyfriend; while she herself is involved with another girl. It is pretty and cute and sounds a great deal more intriguing than in fact it is.

Those who see London as a new City of the Plains may well be cheered that the Roxie Club, established only a matter of weeks ago to show quality films on homoerotic themes, is threatened with closure for lack of support. It will give less satisfaction to those who have welcomed several worthwhile oddities that might never have turned up elsewhere in this country.

The Roxie's new (and let us hope not final) presentation is an idiosyncratic item from Holland, Paul de Lussanet's *Dear Boys*, adapted from a novel by the scandalizing writer Gerard Kave. It is an elegant erotic game about a writer who woos — but fails to keep — a handsome gigolo, with tales of fast cars and sado-masochistic fantasies of wanton youths. The light tone and witty playing redeem the erotica from grossness.

David Robinson

Concerts

A tricky acoustic

LSO/Abbado

Barbican Hall/BBC, Radio 3

The new concert hall in the Barbican Centre seats its audience at three levels, the front row very close indeed to the low dais on which the orchestra sits. The Queen sat in the front row of the circle; behind and above that is a further circle. Leg room, at the back of the stalls, is ample for a tall person; the seats encourage upright posture, are softly upholstered, and wide enough for this fat Englishman's hips.

When you are seated, the appearance of the auditorium is bright and striking, with peanut butter-coloured wood on the gangway steps and behind the orchestra, the latter's facing curiously shaped to suggest oriental woodwind, or perhaps the pipes of an organ which, we gather, is not there. Above and to the side are red and white stripes and surfaces which look like Battersea cake.

In the ceiling the lights are enclosed in what look like inverted brandy balloon glasses, a sparkling effect. On the wood-faced side walls there are small vents, as if for boxes, although they are not for occupation.

I hope that the hum of air-conditioning may be silenced in the auditorium before the next concert: it is a nuisance at the beginning of Elgar's Cello Concerto. For an orchestra as finely tuned as the LSO is when playing for Claudio Abbado, the acoustics of Barbican Hall are tricky at the moment, perhaps more for the audience than for the orchestra. The opening bars of Wagner's *Meistersinger* overture sounded reassuring, big and round in tone, more appetizing than they would in the Royal Festival Hall, the woodwind chirped vividly in the apprentices' section. At other times the string sound was unnaturally shrill, and cantabile violins seemed to lack body in Beethoven's fourth piano concerto.

It should be emphasized

that Barbican audiences will have to retune their ears during early visits to the hall: the LSO will surely also find new ranges of sonority and balance, as it settles into its new home.

I look forward to future concerts when it may be possible to hear the same orchestra from different parts of the auditorium.

This first concert offered Wagner and Beethoven, as detailed above, then Elgar's Cello Concerto and Ravel's *La valse*, nothing composed later than the early 1920s: the most recent composer represented was Sir Michael Tippett, who had written the programme notes for the concert (very interesting too, but should not be, or a living compatriot, have contributed a new composition to this momentous, exciting event in London's life?).

The emphasis was plainly on London as an international centre of music, with an Italian conductor in charge of the Barbican's resident orchestra, a Japanese cellist in the Elgar and a Russian-born pianist in the Beethoven. The cello and piano told well by themselves, curiously enough. Yo Yo Ma's account of the Elgar was as showy in self-expression as Vladimir Ashkenazy's reading of the Beethoven was intensely contained and understated.

Both were contributions to an occasion rather than interpretations to remember for ever. The players have the opportunity, too, of changing their minds: a welcome feature of Barbican musical programmes is that each work will be performed several times in various concert contexts.

One's first and most influential impression of the Barbican centre as a place for listening to music is of the grand design in which the agreeable and novel concert hall is tucked away, seemingly in a corner of the labyrinth. Barbican Hall itself is ripe for exploration, like the complex as a whole. Certainly it will make London's musical life richer, and probably more exciting, to judge from the first syllabus for the opening weeks.

William Mann

BBCSO/Stockhausen

Festival Hall

On Wednesday Karlheinz Stockhausen made his first appearance in public with a British orchestra. The Purcell Room was sold out for his pre-concert talk, and there were not enough programmes for an audience considerably larger than that for most BBCSO concerts. The 89-piece orchestra assembled two mime artists, Elizabeth Clarke and Alain Louafi, poised on a raised dais above the conductor, knelt before their maker and *Inori*, "adorations for one or two soloists with orchestra", began.

At the heart of the 70-minute work is embedded a musical germ or "formula"

which, as in Stockhausen's earlier *Musma*, encapsulates the work's energy. Here, though, the process of genesis before it appears complete is further systematized and expanded through a fantastically ingenious and sensitive schema of metre, instrumental timbre, dynamic and finally pitch. The ear is taught to recognize a seemingly inexhaustible pattern of attributes which the eye endorses in a corresponding chromatic scale of 13 prayer gestures which translate sound into "action melody".

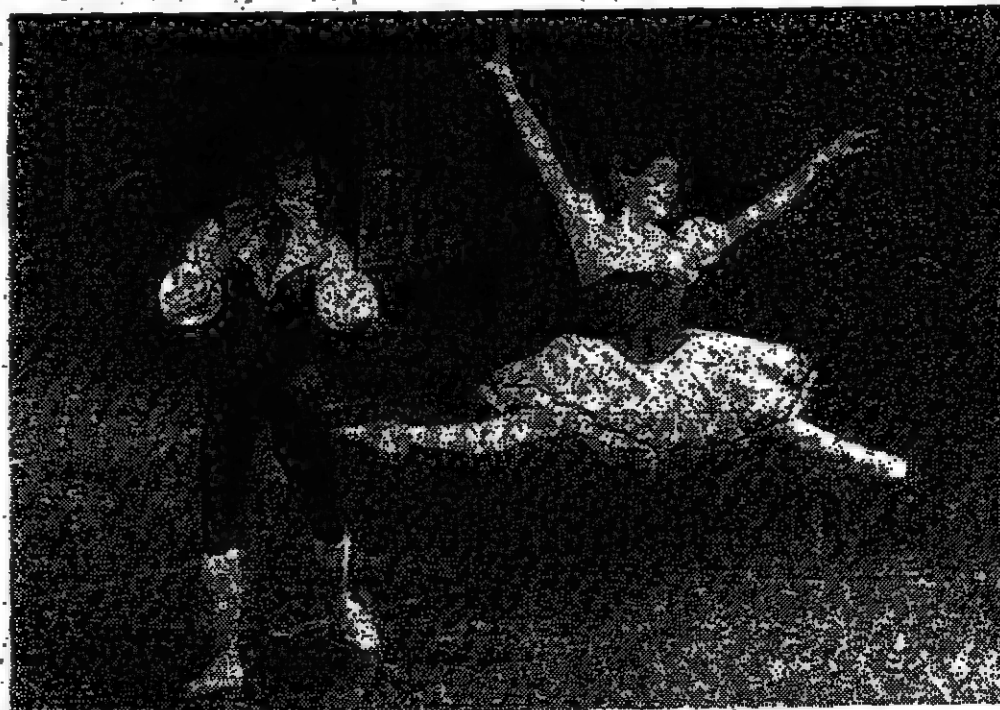
Not until after the "formula" is fully presented and its consequent harmonic and polyphonic evolution set into motion does it engage with the work at anything but a cerebral level. For all its emphasis on ritual, on performance, for all its freshness of aural perception, extended through electronic sound projection (Stockhausen's son Markus at the controls), Stockhausen's the laborious didacticism of the work's idea, only emphasized by the mimed visual aids, seemed irritatingly self-conscious, at times even condescending.

As the latter half progresses and the music's internal energies and conflicts are hatched from idea, the sense of adoration, of wonder at least at the works of the composer's own micro-world burgeons and begins to engage outside itself. But it seemed too late. As composer-conductor walked off, following the upward path through the orchestra taken by the mime artists, the applause had a character all its own. Here was solid respect, flecked with the calls of hero-worship, yet strangely lacking in warmth or spontaneous enthusiasm.

Hilary Finch

Dance

Martins confirmed in Balanchine's favour



Peter Martins himself with Darci Kistler in "The Magic Flute"

with audiences, has been considerably amended, and its amplifications are generally a considerable improvement. With new settings by David Mitchell and pleasant peasant costumes by Ben Benson, the ballet looks attractive and even modestly splendid, a rarity for the decoratively spartan City Ballet.

Yet why Martins, or perhaps more specifically Balanchine, wanted this antique curiosity in the repertoire remains a mystery. The idea came from Balanchine himself, with Martins acting strictly on orders. Obviously Balanchine has some vestigial nostalgic affection for this ballet which, with music by Riccardo Drigo, was first staged at St Petersburg's Maryinsky in 1893. It received a chilly reception but remained 'somewhat in the repertoire and it seems that, as a young dancer growing up in Petrograd, Balanchine on occasion appeared in both

the leading male roles. So much for sentiment.

After its initial production in St Petersburg, it had its New York premiere 20 years later with Anna Pavlova and Alexandre Volinine. The ballet seemed to have died with the 17-year-old Darci Kistler, and unexpectedly, Peter Martins, who was substituting for an injured Helgi Tomasson, himself substituting for an injured Ib Andersen. At later performances, Tomasson recovered, giving a more animated account of the hero, partnering the 19-year-old Katrina Killian, who had created the role at the original school performances. The Massine-like character part of the Marquis was brightly taken by another young newcomer, Bruce Padgett.

If you wanted to be cute, you could suggest that Jerome Robbins had created a time and motion study in *The Gershwin Concerto*, his new ballet which has just

been given its world premiere. Yet cuteness was the last thing in Robbins's mind in this complex, scintillating and oddly engaging ballet.

It is Robbins at his most mastery. Over the four decades he has worked as a choreographer, Robbins has captured two things. The first is the art of choreographic characterization — the realization that dancing is an extension of people, not an exploitation of them. His second area of mastery is in the matter of musical visualization.

Consider this new ballet — demonstrating "Gershwin's time and Robbins's motion. The mood of the music — its varied texture — is strange. "Symphonic jazz" set out to combine popular dance forms with classical music. The mixture never gelled, but in the Gershwin Piano Concerto, as in his folk opera *Porgy and Bess*, can be seen all the grounds for the unfounded optimism. Robbins takes the Concerto on its own terms and premises in the Charleston-impregnated first movement, the bluesy second and the uninhibited jazziest of the last.

The ballet is placed against a blue and lavender art deco setting by Santo Loquasto. A handsome "adaptable" background redolent of 1925, the time of the concerto, changes for each movement. Loquasto's simple costumes, rust for the boys, plum for the girls and white for the four principals, appropriately strike up a more contemporary band. The choreography cleverly uses counterpointed movements to define the music, particularly the piano and orchestra. In style it is classical yet not only uses such natural movements as walking, running or — perhaps less natural — waltzing, but also enlivens the piece with wild flashes of invention, such as an instant when Christopher d'Amboise whirls a swooned Darci Kistler around his shoulder.

Clive Barnes

Opera

Nina Playhouse, Oxford

Of all the composers who tried to write opera in an age that had been made for Mozart, Paisiello was one of the most successful, and *Nina*, or *Mad for Love* one of his most widely staged creations. It was first produced in 1789, the year before *Così fan tutte*, and it reached London in 1797, when this paper was entangled. "The string of sensibility," my predecessor declared, "seldom ceases to vibrate to the electric touch of this exquisite composer."

Well, maybe. One of the virtues of Seamus McGrenera's production for the Oxford University Opera Club, only the second revival anywhere in modern times, is that it is not by any means convinced Paisiello had, his

finger on the pulse of human feeling, and yet it shows how an eighteenth-century audience might have seen *Nina* as the last word in sentimental romance, for the opera played before two audiences, ourselves, and a Regency house party who are touched and amused when they are not singing the choruses. Without the constant presence, and the consequent double focus on the work, *Nina* would seem this stuff. In the first act, we are introduced to the heroine, who has declined into pastoral idyll after the death of her true love. She has a prettily melancholic aria which Clare Moll here sings beautifully, giving it sensitive expression and stylish ornamentation; the other gem is a quite extraordinary and wholly irrelevant shepherd's song accompanied only by a pair of oboes over a drone. Then, in the second act, *Nina's* Lindoro miraculously reappears and the couple are lengthily reunited.

As Lindoro, Brian Parsons was suffering from a throat infection, but he has a bright, high affecting voice, and Christina Collier is charming as *Nina's* maid. Neil Sissons, conducting, does his best with an orchestra and chorus of redemptive talent. There are further performances (in English, and with spoken dialogue as originally) tonight and on Saturday.

Paul Griffiths

James M. Cain's *The Postman Always Rings Twice*, already filmed three times, has now been turned into an opera. Stephen Paus's work will be given its premiere at the Opera Theatre of St Louis, Missouri, on June 17. There are plans to bring it to the Edinburgh Festival in 1983, together with St Louis's production of Delius's *Requiem* and *Gilda*, which was highly praised on this page last summer.

Also on this year's St Louis season is the American premiere of Prokofiev's *Maddalena*, of which Edward Downes has completed the orchestration.

Her Majesty's Theatre

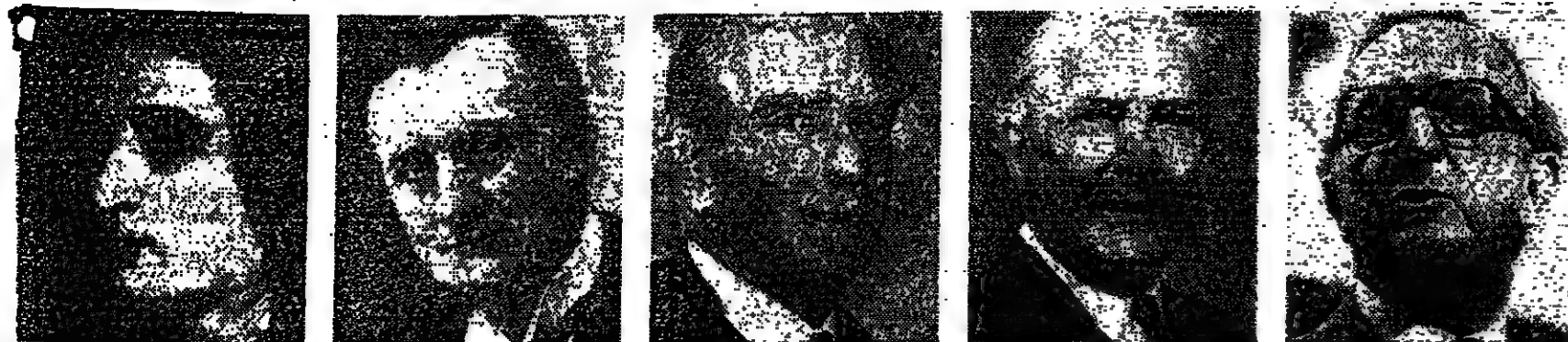
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Foreign Secretaries from the American Revolution to Zimbabwe



Charles James Fox (1782-33) — a humiliating treaty; Sir Edward Grey (1905-16) — foreign affairs dominated politics; Anthony Eden (1935-38, 1940-45, 1951-55), Selwyn Lloyd (1955-60), Lord Carrington (1973-) — coping with Britain's vulnerability to external events

200 cheers for the F.O.

by David Watt

The mild and suitably parsimonious rejoicings ordained by Authority this month to mark the 200th anniversary of the founding of the Foreign Office and the Home Office, will not, I suppose, be joined in with universal fervour even in Whitehall. The first of these great Departments of State has never been particularly popular in the world at large, still less in the rest of the official machine, by which it is traditionally regarded as stand-offish and too big for its boots; the second has become generally notorious (and not without some justification) for obscurantism and official ham-handedness.

And yet some kind of celebration is surely in order. For one thing, the original idea was such a bright one. Before the reorganization of March 1782, administration was managed — or rather mismanaged — by two geographical departments, the Northern and the Southern, in one or other of which miscellaneous affairs of state, whether domestic, foreign, or colonial, were shovelled higgledy-piggledy.

History does not relate, so far as I can make out, to whose clerical mind — or when — the blinding revelation was given that things might be better organized by distinguishing those matters which required direct administration (the home and colonial) from those (i.e. the foreign) which needed quite different diplomatic techniques. But it was undoubtedly a flash of genius that deserves recognition even two centuries later.

Another good reason for rooting around in the dusty attics of bureaucratic history in this fashion was pointed out by Professor Michael Howard in his brilliant commemorative lecture at Chatham House yesterday. The 1782 departmental reshuffle was made possible — perhaps, in part, even prompted — by one of the worst pieces of misman-

agement ever perpetrated by a British Government, namely the loss of the North American colonies. Lord Cornwallis's surrender at Yorktown five months earlier brought down Lord North's ministry and opened the way to change, even if it meant that one of the first duties of Charles James Fox, newly-minted Foreign Secretary, was to negotiate the terms of a humiliating treaty.

There are distinct consolations in contemplating this wreckage, not only as a ripe example of good coming out of evil, but as a reminder of how calamitous Britain's position then appeared to be. The British past was bright and powerful; the future looked bleak and imperishable; lamentations and predictions of limitless decline filled the air. The fact that within 50 years Britain had become the superpower of the nineteenth century does not prove anything about our national future in the twenty-first century, but it puts a fresh perspective on our present discontents.

Back to my mind, however, the most interesting aspect of the anniversary is presented by the question of bureaucratic demarcation with which I began. There is an intriguing irony in the fact that we are celebrating the convenient and successful division of our administrative arrangements into internal and external affairs, at a moment when the lines between the two are becoming more and more blurred.

If one follows the preoccupations of British governments since the Foreign Office was established it is possible (by gross oversimplification) to trace a fairly straightforward pattern in three phases. In the first, which covers the whole of the nineteenth century, we see the steady rise of foreign (including, of course, imperial) concerns, in the scale of

importance until by the beginning of this century they dominated all other considerations. The Foreign, Colonial, and India Offices — and of course the attendant War Office and Admiralty — became the power centres of Whitehall; their collective needs and concerns took precedence over, and constantly distorted, all other domestic and economic considerations.

After the First World War, this process was gradually reversed. With the rise of Labour and the welfare state, the domestic imperatives became increasingly insistent until by the 1960s foreign policy could be seen as the handmaid, even the slave, of Britain's internal needs — and particularly of social and economic difficulties.

The third (and current) phase is more balanced and more ambiguous. Britain's vulnerability to external events has steadily increased in the last 20 years and this has enhanced the importance of foreign policy. On the other hand, the interdependence of states and the interpenetration of their economies is now so great on the international scene that almost every aspect of domestic affairs is transformed by them. Interest and exchange rate policy, energy policy, agricultural policy, trade policy, inward and outward investment policy — it is hardly possible to distinguish the internal from the external ramifications of any of them.

Important consequences flow from this, as they also do from the fact that most other countries are in the same boat. One is that the coordination of British policy in the conventional fringe policy field becomes increasingly complicated. The proliferation of Cabinet committees is necessary to prevent wires getting crossed, and that in turn gives more power to the Cabinet Secretariat at the

expense of Departments. Mrs Thatcher's half-banking for a formal Prime Minister's Department has, I gather, been abandoned for the time being, but the force of circumstances is moving things steadily in that direction.

Another result is that the Foreign Office, if it wishes to keep its end up in Whitehall, is obliged to spawn experts on a large variety of subjects formerly regarded as outside its expertise, while at the same time the Treasury, in order to keep a firm control of public expenditure, has amassed experts in foreign and defence policy. All this strengthens the hold of the Civil Service in general over policy — at the expense of departmental Ministers, including Foreign Secretaries, who cannot carry everything in their heads and would kill themselves if they tried.

But in the long run it must also affect the position of the Foreign Service itself. The Central Policy Review Staff Report on Overseas Representation (written mainly by domestic-oriented advisers) recommended four years ago that the Home and Foreign Services should be amalgamated on the ground that many of their functions now overlapped. This take-over bid was premature, and was successfully shaken off, but the bidders will undoubtedly be back before many years are out, and they will not always fail.

The future of the office of Foreign Secretary itself is harder to predict. The ease of modern communications and the tendency of governments, particularly in the Third World, to be identified with individual politicians, has made Foreign Secretaries intensely peripatetic, and it is doubtful whether this has actually enhanced their importance or devalued it.

by making them into glorified ambassadors when they should be at home, making policy and fighting their corner in Cabinet.

The crucial factor in all this, naturally, is the Prime Minister. It has always been open to Prime Ministers to appoint weak Foreign Secretaries and to run their own foreign policy. Some, like Gladstone and Salisbury, did so even in the nineteenth century, just as some, like Attlee and Mrs Thatcher, have been more or less ready to do the reverse in modern times. Their own bent and the political needs of the moment will obviously continue to produce wide variations. But again, the long-run trend, here and perhaps throughout the world, seems likely to be at the expense of the existing institutions.

Because domestic politics and domestic economics are so much a part of international politics and economics, these last are too important to be left to Foreign Offices.

There is an awkward dilemma here. Britain will need to employ diplomacy (defined in Sir Ernest Satow's celebrated words as "the application of intelligence and tact to the conduct of relations between governments") more skilfully in the next 20 years than ever before because "influence" must now do the work of power.

We have in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office a superb professional machine for executing this purpose. But the question is who is to make policy over the enormous field in which the external and internal factors merge and over which commentators, television pundits, parliamentarians and voters are now swarming.

The Foreign Office would claim to be able to fulfil this function as well, but with the best will in the world and even with an able Foreign Secretary it is hard to see how they can do it.

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A budget to come to the aid of all parties

by Frank Field, MP

The public discussion on the run-up to the Budget has the same unreal quality about it as in previous years. Almost all the talk centres on how little room there is to manoeuvre and yet, more than likely, the Chancellor will make little mention of the hundred or so tax reliefs — or tax benefits, to describe them more accurately — which exempt more than 50 per cent of the nation's personal income from tax.

Here is an issue on which MPs across parties should be able to find some agreement. A radical reform of all the tax benefits offers the chance to increase personal freedom of choice if taxpayers spend their money in a way which the Government thinks is desirable. Reform offers the chance of cutting the rates of tax — so increasing the taxpayer's freedom of choice — while increasing expenditure on social security benefits.

Means — tested benefits — build a ceiling over the heads of the poor, thereby cementing them into poverty. Others, like child benefit, act as a floor on which people can build by their own efforts, without being penalized. Additional expenditure here allows claimants to spring themselves from poverty. The individual and collective gains on the freedom front should be clear to most taxpayers.

Three tax reforms are essential if increasing personal freedom is to be a main aim of government policy. The first is to allow all tax benefits at the standard rate of tax only. By itself, this change will bring in something like £750m in extra revenue.

A second reform is to put a cash ceiling on all tax benefits other than the personal allowances. How such a policy would work can be seen if we take just one of the main tax benefits. About £2,000m is paid out as mortgage interest relief. It would be wrong to wipe out this benefit overnight, but a cash ceiling could be applied at the current level, and this sum spread over a growing number of owner-occupiers in succeeding years.

The gains from this particular reform are considerable. Had it been implemented in 1975, the additional revenue from applying a cash ceiling policy to just four tax benefits is shown in the table below. Over a five-year period the savings

would have amounted to over £3,800m and, in the last year alone, the Exchequer would have collected an additional £1,800m which illustrates just how fast the expenditure on tax benefits is growing.

A third reform must centre on redistributing income from men to women, while at the same time persuading taxpayers to spread more effectively the income earned from up to 40 years' work over the two vulnerable periods in most people's lives — when they have children and when they retire. The lead-in to this reform centres on the married man's tax allowance.

At present, married women gain a tax benefit through the working lives of their husbands, and the tax benefit is paid to their husbands. Some groups advocate the abolition of the married man's tax allowance, but I do not think this can be justified.

The peak period of working-class affluence is when

Given the low-level of support to families with children in the past, we should not penalize those families now just because their children have reached maturity

both parents are working and the children have grown up. Given the low level of support to families with children in the past, we should not penalize those families now just because their children have reached maturity.

I do believe it would be politically possible, however, to apply a cash ceiling to the married man's tax allowance and for the money to be channelled to households with children under five. If this "cash-

ceiling" approach had been applied to the married man's tax allowance in 1975/76, then by last year the cash payment for households with children under five would have stood at £10.50 a week. This reform would therefore initiate a steady redistribution of income from men to women, at the same time beginning the process of matching people's income to their lifetime needs.

The large increase in revenue resulting from reforming the tax-benefit welfare state should be earmarked to raise the tax threshold, to cut the rates of tax, while at the same time beginning to rebuild the welfare state so that it acts as a floor on which people can build by their own efforts.

A key benefit in remodelling the welfare state is the child-benefit scheme. The larger the injection of funds into this scheme, the greater will be the decrease in the numbers of poor families. And because child benefit is deducted from social-security payments, the larger the child benefit the greater the incentive to work is for those low wage earners with children. Similarly, a major child benefit increase will begin to redress the additional tax burden placed on family taxpayers since 1979.

A flourishing child-benefit system has other advantages. It transfers income from men to women and it increases the range of choices, and thereby the freedom, enjoyed by families. The importance of child benefit in helping to determine the type of society in which we live is therefore difficult to overstate.

But the necessary funds for it will be found only if politicians are prepared to reform the tax-benefit welfare state. For this to happen will require MPs to take a broader viewpoint than the traditional approach to the Budget which has dominated debates for the last hundred years to more.

The author is Labour MP for Birkenhead

Savings on selected tax benefits by applying a cash ceiling 1975/76	Total savings by 1980/81
Life assurance premiums	740
Mortgage interest relief	2325
Pension schemes	570
Retirement annuity relief for the self employed	190
Total	3825

How Kincora could still harm Ian Paisley

Symbols are important in Northern Ireland. As Martin Smyth, Presbyterian minister, Grandmaster of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland and official Unionist parliamentary candidate, quipped at a Belfast housing estate a few days ago, he carried a crumpled Union Jack in one hand, as he shook voters' hands with the other.

The Rev William McCrae of the Free Presbyterian Church, campaigning a mile away, had an equally potent symbol. He was preceded by the head of his church and leader of the Democratic Unionist Party, the Rev Ian Paisley.

In competition for the South Belfast seat left vacant by the murder of the Rev Robert Bradford, the DUP and the Official Unionists have slung clerical mud at each other across that half-forgotten gulf which divides

Ulster's unionists. Although the bickering this week reached the threat of war, not one word is about the issue which dominates many conversations away from the hustings and which could alter the shape of Protestant politics: the Kincora homosexual scandal.

The murky story, which combines sex and paramilitary violence in one topic for gossip, will continue to haunt the province's politics long after the result of the by-election is known this afternoon.

Back in the early 1970s British ministers and civil servants cherished the belief that the Official Unionist monopoly of the Protestant vote should be allowed to dismantle itself. If the idea

was to liberate usefully moderate tendencies it has not worked out that way. The subsequent intense competition in intransigence between Paisley and the declining Official Unionists has steadily cut down areas of possible political agreement between the Protestant and Catholic communities.

The by-election has been billed as an index of whether the Official Unionists can stop Paisley's bandwagon, but the figures suggest that even if the Official Unionists hold on to the seat — and they probably will — it may still not check Paisley's rise. In local elections last year his party became the first non-Official Unionist group ever to exceed a 20 per cent share of the vote.

In addition to Paisley's rise, the Official Unionists' internal contradiction between wanting devolved power and to cling more tightly to Britain, their shortage of money, their leadership squabbles and their lack of flair have fed the DUP with an unrepentant new coalition of Protestant voters.

The votes in last year's council elections in South Belfast leave the parties almost level. But Smyth is a considerable figure in his own community, McCrae, although backed by an energetic machine, is not from the area. He is probably the only politician in the country who has ever run in a local election against an opponent whose only manifesto prom-

ise was that, if elected, he would hit McCrae. The man was elected and the entire manifesto was carried out.

The Kincora affair is perhaps the only issue which might check Paisley. Events are now in train — fresh investigations by the Royal Ulster Constabulary, the DUP and the previous RUC inquiries by an outside chief constable, and a judicial inquiry after both of those — which will ensure that the boys' home stays in the news.

William McGrath, house-father of the home and founder of a small Protestant paramilitary splinter group called Tara, is now serving a four-year prison sentence for a variety of homosexual offences against boys under his care. The unanswered

questions are: were all the offences followed up, and who knew what was happening when?

Two people have said they warned Paisley in the early 1970s about McGrath's activities; Paisley has said that one of them who had evidence was not prepared to confront McGrath, and that nobody mentioned to him that in 1972 McGrath was put in charge of Kincora.

Paisley has dismissed the publicity given to the allegations as Republican-inspired, and there claim and counterclaim have stale-mated. But he is said to have been shaken by the row. Even if he did not know McGrath worked at Kincora, the man who launched a Save Ulster from Sodomy cam-

paign and — in improbable alliance with the local Roman Catholic hierarchy — will now oppose the Government's intention to bring Northern Ireland's homosexuality laws into line with the rest of the country, does not appear to have pursued allegations with great vigour. McGrath was simply banned from using a Free Presbyterian church for an Order service.

If Paisley has reached the peak of his popularity, or if it were to decline, the balance of Unionist power and the chances of any initiative which Mr Prior, the Northern Ireland Secretary, might get off the ground would be changed. In standing for any possible assembly, Paisley would certainly ask for a

mandate to wreck the London-Dublin talks, and the Official Unionists would have to follow suit.

Should Paisley build successfully on his 26.5 per cent share of the vote last year and reach 30 per cent, he could stall an assembly indefinitely on that issue. The 70 per cent "weighted majority" figure in Mr Prior's scheme is designed on the assumption that he will not reach 30 per cent.

That speculative arithmetic assumes that Mr Prior will solve the other problems still standing in the way of his plans, now due to be announced in the first week of April. Most important of all, he has yet to convince the Social Democratic and Labour Party that there is anything in it for them.

George Brock

A revolutionary epic finds its way West

Collins-Harvill, the imprint which published *Doors of Zingis*, secured rights to an "anti-revolutionary" epic which terrified the Soviet authorities even more than Pasternak's great book. Vasily Grossman's *Life and Fate* was completed in 1962, and promptly impounded by officers of the KGB who seized not only the manuscript, typescripts and rough drafts, but even the typewriter ribbons and sheets of carbon paper Grossman had used. Grossman himself was not arrested, but he said that the arrest of his novel made him feel as if he had been strangled. He died 18 months later.

Only one other manuscript has been confiscated in such a way — Solzhenitsyn's *Gulag Archipelago*, which is a mine of factual historical information which might otherwise have been obliterated. Though Grossman was the first writer in any country to describe a Nazi extermination camp in detail, *Life and Fate* is a traditional, realistic, historical novel, comparable in scope to *War and Peace*.

Grossman was told before he died that there could be no hope of the novel being printed for the next two or three centuries, yet two copies of the complete text recently reached an emigre Russian man-of-letters in Paris. The acquisition of the English language rights was negotiated by Mark Bonham-Carter, a member of the publishing board

of Collins and chairman of *Index on Censorship*, the journal which has already published a dramatic extract from the book.

Lost loos

They keep moving the loos, one hapless user complained to PHS as the glittering, swirling carnival that was the official opening of the Barbican Centre got underway on Wednesday evening. Are we on level seven or eight another puzzled?

What with the wine and the canapes, and the wine and the music, and the wine and the fireworks, and the wine and the midnight supper, such disorientation was inevitable.

A pikeman dropped his pike on the head of Anthony Camden, the London Symphony Orchestra's chairman, just as he was to be presented to the Queen. The man sitting next to PBS during the Royal Shakespeare Company's pantomime fell asleep, snoring loudly.

The most bracing part of the evening was when the dinner jacketed through met the yelping and whistling residents of the nearby flats as the Reverend Ronald Lancaster's fireworks exploded above the spire of St Giles' Cripplegate in fantastic pyrotechnical celebration.

At this moment in time PHS must accept that trade union talk has worked its way up to a ruling situation as far as the English language is concerned. Opening the Barbican Centre, the Queen said: "At the end of the day..."

THE TIMES DIARY



Christopher Driver, the editor of the Good Food Guide, has been offered by one of his principal winners. The 1982 Guide is to be published on March 15, and its verdicts are supposed to be a closely-guarded secret until then. Yet already Kay and Paul

Henderson of Gidleigh Park at Chalford in Devon have sent out press releases announcing that theirs has been rated one of the three top restaurants and hotels in the country. Joining the country's top three is Connaught, and the three distinction symbols the Guide awards. "One really rather regrets having honoured such a boastful so-and-so", said Driver when told.

Tops at talking

We may not be good at much but, PHS can reveal, Britain has regained its position as the biggest talking shop in the world. Figures to be published on Monday by the Union of International Associations in Brussels will show that London hosted as many international conferences as Paris last year (327 each), but that the United Kingdom was a whole, with 545, beat France and the United States to top the international league.

Russian rumours

Blithely unaware of the rumours swirling around Moscow at the moment, President Brezhnev yesterday went to the theatre, taking half the Politburo with him. They saw a new play about Lenin, entitled "Thus We will be Victorious" at the Moscow arts theatre. The performance was officially declared a "great success".

The Soviet leader does not often go to the theatre — ice

hockey matches are more his line of enjoyment — but this play, starring one of the country's top actors, Alexander Kalyagin, is clearly special.

For those determined to see conspiracy theories around them, there is a nice irony in the visit. The play deals with Lenin's final year of life and the question of his succession. Recently the youngest member of the Politburo, 51-year-old Mikhail Gorbachev, went along and led the applause. Last any inference might be drawn, President Brezhnev was accompanied yesterday by Arvid Peltse, at 83 the oldest Politburo member.

Singular star

In the superb and youthful cast of Julian Mitchell's *Another Country* at the Queen's Theatre it is fair to single out Kenneth Branagh only because without him the play would never have reached the West End. Robert Fox, the producer, had to light to get him, because Branagh comes to a leading role straight from

Royal Academy of Dramatic Art. More than 100 young actors auditioned for the role of Judd, the communist public schoolboy in whom Mitchell has drawn the young idealists of the Spanish Civil War, John Cornford and Esmond Romilly.

Branagh, who swept the board of prizes at RADAA, was so outstanding that Fox and director Stuart Burge successfully appealed to the London theatres' council in which managers sit with Equity representatives, that the production could not do without him, and that the usual rules about apprenticeship in the provinces had to be waived.

Branagh's drama school career sharply contrasts that of his brilliant co-star, Rupert Everett, who takes the Guy Burgess character in Mitchell's play. Everett was thrown out of the Central School of Drama after a year for being "too awkward."

Body blow

FHS is not very keen on corporal punishment, and so is a little hurt to have been the recipient of a short, sharp missive from an organization called Dove. It is Fox, the producer, had to light to get him, because Branagh comes to a leading role straight from the



Such is the excitement in the Commons about the possible security risks posed by young Americans that our social services correspondent, who has been reporting Parliament for more than 18 years, was yesterday twice challenged and asked to identify himself. It has never happened to her before.

The British Museum lost some of its treasures yesterday. The mighty chandelier above the staircase of the Edward VII wing crashed down, sending one visitor sprawling in fright.

Hard cheese

The landlord of Egon Ronay's English Cheese Pub of 1982 was told, just three days before, that his licence would not be renewed. Now the pub, the Plough at Ruspur, West Sussex, is up for sale by auction.

Peter Andrews took over the licence last May from his mother. In September he was convicted for possession of cannabis, not on the premises but at his home two miles away, and fined £40. When his licence, which expires in April, came up for renewal the police objected.

The Andrews family still hope they will be allowed to retain the pub, with Ronay complimented on its range of real ales, beamed bar and lawn garden as well as the cheeseboard. At Horsham on Friday week they will apply for the licence to be transferred to Andrews's father, John, and the manager, Derek Welton.

Diary Quiz

Our cryptic clues to the week's events:

- 1 Who said sorry with a daftoid?
- 2 Which group of workers got 14 per cent plus perks?
- 3 Where has Prince Rajitsinjhi joined the Ku Klux Klan?
- 4 Which Welsh boyo was memorably laid by Mary Evans?
- 5 Where was another wonder of the world set off with a series of bangs?

Solutions on Monday.

PHS



PO Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

NO CREDIT IS DUE

The western response to events in Poland is still in a mess. It is now nearly three months since martial law was imposed, and nearly two months since the Nato meeting in Brussels agreed in principle on sanctions, including the suspension of commercial credits. So far these sanctions have had the effect of making life slightly more difficult for the Polish regime. For instance, about forty per cent of Polish industry is now idle for lack of western components. But there is no sign that the sanctions are biting politically. Indeed, the situation is getting worse. General Jaruzelski's visit to Moscow seems if anything to have postponed still further the lifting of martial law. The news that internment to the West is another sign that attempts at dialogue with Solidarity are being abandoned. As Mr Humphrey Atkins admitted in the Commons on Wednesday, there is no change of heart on the part of the Polish authorities.

What is the West to do? Polish liberals who have been sent to the West on missions of persuasion argue that western sanctions are helping the hardliners by reducing the standard of living and pushing the Polish economy into closer dependence on Moscow. It is difficult to accept this reasoning. Western sanctions are limited and conditional. It has been made clear that they will be lifted when martial law is lifted, the internment resumed with Solidarity.

The West therefore has no political or economic interest in making life easier for a neo-Stalinist regime. The blunt message should be that if the Russians insist on having such a regime in Warsaw they should pay the full price for it, which means taking over the full burden of Poland's economy and paying its debts. If they do not like this, and want the West to share the burden, then they must listen to western conditions. This is not "unwarranted interference" but basic banking.

To make the western message convincing the first step is to move faster and more effectively with the sanctions agreed in Brussels. This will be difficult. The western system is based on free enterprise and free competition, so it cannot easily harness commerce to politics. There is also a natural reluctance to lose good contracts and the jobs that go with them. Nevertheless, if the West is to be taken seriously it must be prepared to make sacrifices, and there are certain things that governments can do, particularly with regard to credits.

If these moves have no effect the West should make a direct threat to declare Poland in default. Obviously, if carried out, this would create serious problems in the West. Some western banks would go bankrupt unless supported. The PSBR would be raised by the need to honour government guarantees. But the consequences for Poland would be worse because it would be reduced to trading in cash, and it cannot do without western trade. There would also be repercussions on the rest of eastern Europe. On balance, therefore, the bargaining power is with the West. It should be used.

To throw the entire Polish economic mess into the lap of the Russians would be logical, specific and very expensive for the Russians, but if they want an oppressive and inefficient regime in Poland they should take full economic as well as political responsibility.

SWORDS AND PLOUGH SHARES

Mr John Nott's announcement about increasing the reservists and providing adventure training for a few thousand unemployed youngsters is to be welcomed, as far as it goes; but it does not go very far. Last June he said that the Government was determined to give greater emphasis to the reserve forces, and this has now resulted in an increase of 16,000 men in the Territorial Army. No increase, however small, should be decided, but Mr Nott has failed to go to the heart of the question of reserve military power, and he should try again.

Britain's strategic defence policy is based on the principle of nuclear deterrence. However, since the abolition of conscription, all Governments have found it convenient to hide behind that policy as being the only defence policy we need, on the ground that the only danger we face is of a total breakdown of deterrence, rather than a partial one. Hence we only need a nuclear bomb, with a small number of volunteer armed forces, backed up by even fewer reservists.

This goes against the whole principle of reserve power, which should be based on the view that — in peacetime, or relative peacetime such as we have — one's standing force should only be allowed to contract if the reserve forces correspondingly expand. In

that way the nation preserves machinery for military expansion to meet a whole range of future emergencies, not just the too narrowly defined contingency of a breakdown in nuclear deterrence. The bankruptcy of this policy was fully apparent only a few years ago when the strain of law enforcement in Northern Ireland virtually incapacitated the army for any of its continuing purpose, in spite of its continuing pretence to meet Nato and global commitments.

Mr Nott's new reservists, therefore, will provide some temporary palliative to the regular army. But, if even Northern Ireland can incapacitate us, any future emergency will reveal much more starkly how gravely the Chiefs of Staff have neglected their duty to provide Britain with appropriate machinery for expansion of the services to meet unexpected emergencies.

The proposal for adventure training is also an attractive one, but incomplete. Mr Nott said that the very low numbers leaving the armed services, and the consequential reduction in recruitment, had produced some spare capacity in the training establishments of all three services. That training capacity should not be frittered away providing canoe trips and such like. It is the seed corn of the country's future military potential. But it is more than this, since military

trade training improves the quality of those who pass through the machine in a social as well as a military sense. Social and military qualities are not necessarily incompatible. There is more to military training now than learning to kill. There is more to it even than gunnery, tactics or fieldcraft. It is noticeable that four out of every five recruits enlist because they wish to learn a trade which would be valuable to them later as civilians.

The national value of this training machine is thus not only that it trains servicemen with technical skills. Most of these skills are as relevant to industry, as they are to the military. There is much exchange of information and experience between service training establishments and their counterparts in industry, particularly in junior management and trade training. When the economy picks up we will again need more skilled manpower than exists. We should harness the military training machine to this future industrial and economic requirement, by using its spare capacity now to turn out young men and women trained in modern techniques. In peacetime there is always pressure to turn swords into ploughshares. But we should not forget the service training machine's ability to turn out swordsmen who are ploughmen too; and the better for it.

THE CANDID FRIEND

President Francois Mitterrand is to be congratulated on his visit to Israel. He has shown that, even in the Middle East, courage and honesty are not necessarily incompatible with a certain diplomatic finesse.

It would have been much easier for him to avoid going there. No European head of state has ever done so before (unless we count Pope Paul VI in 1964). The unanimous advice of the French foreign ministry must surely have been against it, in view of the danger that it would severely damage France's standing in the Arab world, which is worth hundreds of millions of dollars in commercial contracts. Events since his election, which twice caused him to postpone the visit — the Israeli raid on the Iraqi nuclear reactor, in which a French technician was killed, and then the annexation of the Golan Heights — could easily have been taken as a pretext to cancel it altogether.

Mitterrand chose to disregard those arguments, for reasons which are surely honourable. He has always been regarded, and evidently regards himself, as a "friend of Israel" — hardly a personal friend of her present prime minister, but a friend of the Jewish people and a strong believer in their right to an

independent existence in their own state, the state of Israel. The role of a friend, when he disagrees with you or believes you are behaving badly, is not to turn his back on you. It is to seek you out and tell you honestly what he thinks. This is something the Arabs can understand, for it is an Arab proverb which says: "Your friend is he who tells you the truth," not he who keeps telling you you're right."

Personal ethics, it may be said, are not necessarily the best basis for international relations. But they are not the worst either. Whatever is the correct route to a peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict, it surely must lie through an improvement of communications on all sides rather than through cutting them off. The Arabs have a case for regarding as an enemy someone who gives a practical help, especially in a military form, to a state which is refusing to relinquish occupied Arab territory. They should not so regard anyone who seeks simply to maintain channels of communication with that state, including communication at the highest political level.

By speaking frankly to the Israelis, and in particular by voicing his opinion that the Palestinians — like the Israelis

themselves — are entitled to their own state, Mitterrand has surely earned the gratitude of all those Arabs who genuinely seek a peaceful solution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. By stating at the same time that the Palestinians must, in order to participate in a peaceful settlement, be willing to recognize the Jewish state and to renounce the use of force against it, Mitterrand says no more than he and other European leaders have repeatedly told the Arabs — their faces. In fact, he is stating the obvious. But he is certainly right to make sure that he is clearly seen to be saying the same to both sides — something his foreign minister, M Cheysson, has not always been sufficiently careful about.

Finally, Mitterrand is right, in principle, to say that the task of finding a solution to the conflict is one for the peoples of the region rather than for outsiders. But since, as he also said, "any regional crisis that lasts a long time attracts like moths the world powers who seek any occasion to try out their strength", it would be naive to suppose that the peoples of the region are acting with total autonomy. The great powers who supply them with weapons and economic aid cannot escape a degree of responsibility for their policies.

Case for Belvoir coalfield

From Mr Madron Seligman, MEP for West Sussex (Conservative) and others

The letter from Mr Joe Gormley (February 17) answers Mr Ronald Butt's article about the proposed development of north-east Leicestershire coalfield with a strong argument in favour of the need to exploit the UK's natural resources. However, the case for proceeding with this project is even wider than that.

The European Commission supported the development of this coalfield at the public enquiry, arguing that the European Community must maintain a substantial and economically viable coal industry to avoid still greater dependence on imported energy. A healthy coal mining industry as the Government has often said, plays a vital part in Community security as well as economic strategy.

At present the demand for coal is artificially low, due to worldwide recession. Consequently stocks are building up and people are questioning the need for additional mining capacity. This can be seen in the fact that by the year 2000 it is calculated that European coal consumption will rise from the present 314 million tons to over 500 million tons a year, as supplies of alternative fuels, oil and gas, decline.

Great Britain's coal industry will have a key role to play in this situation, by investing in new capacity. Even so, it is estimated that Europe will still be dependent on imports of coal in the year 2000, amounting to some 240 million tons, against the present 74 million tons.

Furthermore, unless new mines are opened, skilled mine-workers will have no jobs to go to when their present mines are exhausted, and the Community can ill afford to lose such men. Prepared by family tradition, to work thousands of feet underground.

The environmental impact of deep mines on "green field" sites can be greatly reduced if precautions are taken from the beginning. We north-east Leicestershire coalfield will probably not emerge before the early 1990s, we must be sure that any effect on the local environment is reduced to the absolute minimum.

Yours faithfully,
MADRON SELIGMAN,
J. SCOTT-HOPKINS,
FRED CATHERWOOD,
ROBERT MORELAND,
European Democratic Group,
22 Square, SW1,
March 3.

Troubled Poland

From Mr D. P. McLaughlin

Sir, Two cheers for your near-generous leading article, "Portrait of a party man" (February 24). Your reasoned assessment of the political difficulties faced by the Polish Deputy Premier, Mr Rakowski, offers some realism for the offence occasioned by the cheerful and ill-mannered interview by Ms Fallaci which you published on the Monday and Tuesday.

The travail of Poland is too tragic a matter for the Poles, the Soviet Russian sphere of influence and the world, to be trivialized by the personality-clashing prose of irate journalists. More power to the elbows of campaigning commentators, but the apparently wilful failure of Ms Fallaci to honour the patent integrity of this troubled politician angered and saddened me. The fact that I am consoled by your leading article does not help me to understand why you bought the Fallaci piece in the first place.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID P. McLAUGHLIN,
8 Northolme Road, Islington, NS.

From Mr Norman Gear

Sir, May I protest against the appalling distortion of Marxist philosophy which appears in the leader column of your paper today (February 24). You write in connection with the Polish Deputy Premier, "he speaks as a true Marxist when he utters the chilling remark that 'in politics the individual does not count'".

Anyone who has read Marx will know that throughout his life he stressed the right and the need of the individual to fulfil his unique nature within a just society. It was Marx's argument that it was the capitalist system which denied, frustrated and perverted human nature. Looking around Western Europe today, in ever more tasteless commercialism and its millions of unemployed, who can deny that he was right?

Yours sincerely,
NORMAN GEAR,
55 Carleton Road,
Dinas Powis,
South Glamorgan.

Page of honour

From Mr William Shawcross

Sir, If as your diarist alleges, (February 26), the enemies of Bruce Page, till now the editor of the *New Statesman*, consider him "the Pol Pot of British Journalism", then no one would want such people as friends. Far from being a force of evil and wanton destruction, Bruce Page is a brilliantly creative and original journalist who has immeasurably enriched British reporting. He was the driving force behind many of the most important investigations published over the last fifteen years. The list of young journalists whom he has encouraged is longer still. I hope he's in the business a long time yet.

Yours etc.,
WILLIAM SHAWCROSS,
17 Parkhill Road, NW3.

Practical benefits of national service

From Lieutenant General Sir John Cowley

Sir, Your leading article of February 27 on the subject of the abolition of national service in this country 25 years ago contains the sentence "a security rosette by the self-satisfaction of the armed forces at being once again left alone with their professionalism". The social consequences of the abolition seem also to have been ignored.

I recollect clearly a meeting held in London shortly before the final decision to abolish national service was taken. I was instructed to attend this meeting to represent the War Office view, as the Army was the service to be most affected by this decision.

A number of speakers who were professors of education, sociology and other related subjects spoke first. The main theme of their speeches was that national service was damaging to the youth of this country and, if it were abolished, school leavers would go straight to further education or to jobs in industry or the professions without wasting eighteen months or two years of their formative life in the armed services. Your paper indeed wrote a leading article headed "Wasting time", a quote from my short speech saying that all young people maintain that doing something they do not want to do is "wasting time".

The duly speech in favour of retaining national service was made by the War Office representative. I said that it had turned the regular services into training organizations for young men, and from a professional point of view this could not be considered the role for which the services had been formed, but there was no doubt that from the wider point of view it was beneficial to the youth of the country. It instilled a sense of comradeship and discipline during the early years of a young man's life, the old Etonian met the shop floor worker on equal terms, and both received the same treatment from the sergeant-major. These same two might today be working together in the same company.

When their national service was over, each man was asked the question on a slip of paper "Do you consider your period of national service?" No signature was required. Over 90 per cent answered "Yes".

The psychologists and the sociologists won the day. National service was abolished and cannot now be restarted, but 25 years later to blame the "underman" and overpaid "armed forces", self-satisfied "at being once again left alone with their professionalism" is hardly fair.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN COWLEY,
Whymble, Sandy Down,
Lymington, Hampshire.

Human rights

From the Archbishop of the Indian Ocean

Sir, The foreign policy of the British Government with regard to human rights is now so ambivalent as to have lost all moral content. On the one hand it supports massive sanctions against both the USSR and Poland and demands an end to martial law and the release of Mr Lech Walesa and all other detainees.

On the other it is totally opposed to effective sanctions against South Africa, whose government has for generations denied basic human rights to the majority of its own citizens, is in illegal occupation of Namibia and has, in recent months, greatly increased its aggression against virtually all its African neighbours.

On February 5 this year yet another detainee, Dr Neil Aggett, February 25.

EEC and El Salvador

From Mr Euan Luard

Sir, Over recent years the EEC has been seeking, through "political co-operation", to adopt common policies on certain major international issues. Should not the next effort in this kind be an attempt by the EEC to persuade the United States of the need for a negotiated settlement in El Salvador?

United States advisers are themselves now warning, it is reported, that it is urgent that the government forces in that country will be able to achieve a decisive victory. Yet by providing unconditional assistance and support to a government which is palpably unable to control the murderous elements acting in its name, the United States is identifying itself with political forces that are increasingly reviled by a large proportion of the population of El Salvador and alienating a substantial section of opinion in Latin America generally. It is under increasing criticism from its allies in Western Europe and elsewhere. And it is now, it seems, even losing the support of the United States electorate itself.

Oxford today

From Mr K. M. Spence

Sir, In seeking to refute a prejudice that would discourage young people from Oxford entry, because it "would simply preserve a rotten system", Mr Harry Judge, Tutor for Admissions at Brasenose, (February 24) hurries by a significant change in the selection method, which has implications on the product.

In 1949 my entry to Brasenose included an interview by a number of college fellows acting together in the common weal. Twenty years later my son was questioned by only one subject tutor at the same place, who seemed concerned by specialist points alone.

Palumbo plan for Mansion House

From Sir John Summerson, FBA

Sir, Some ten years ago I saw the plans of Mr Peter Palumbo's Mansion House project (The Times, February 25) when they were exhibited at the Royal Exchange. They seemed to me then to represent a successfully exciting architectural adventure which should, but obviously would not, be put in hand directly. Now these plans are again before us with long-term but wholly realistic proposals for their execution. They still seem to me to promise a beneficial and in many ways beautiful alteration of the City scene, but on every hand come warnings that they will not do.

A variety of reasons is given. 1. Financiers of the "old hat". 2. A number of "listed" buildings would be lost. 3. The monumental elevations exposed to the new square were not meant to be seen like that. 4. Open spaces conceived in built-up areas are draughty and squalid. 5. The new square is not "in character" with London. My experience of architectural change over 60 years leads me to feel some sympathy with some of these objections but when I come to add them up I find myself with a pathetic aggregate of disconnected and even contradictory half-truths at the root of which is a deep-seated fear that, in our time, any change in an urban environment is certain to lead to the worse.

Now, if the Palumbo scheme is frustrated, what happens? The listed buildings in Poultry and Queen Victoria Street will be retained, skin deep, with new insides, offering to the public a moderately interesting but not of mid-Victorian architecture. This is all right, but at what a cost! The opportunity will have been lost of creating, in what has become a high-rise City, what I would like to call a "forum of release" from the tensions which gather so breed around the Mansion House, the Royal Exchange and the Bank.

The new square would not, of course, be a "London square" in the traditional sense or anything like. It would be unique and peculiar, its success unpredictable in a town-planning enterprise. But I believe there is more to be said for it, and by people with more town-planning expertise than I possess, than has, so far, been said against it.

Yours etc.,
JOHN SUMMERSON,
1 Eton Villas, NW3,
February 28.

Arts Council chairman

From Mr Peter Plowden

Sir, The appointment of Sir William Rees-Mogg as chairman of the Arts Council is disturbing in that it has been said that he will remain vice-chairman of the BBC while carrying out his new responsibilities. We believe that both the BBC and the Arts Council of Great Britain are bodies of immense importance to the artistic and cultural life of Britain, but that it is desirable for them to remain completely independent of each other. It is essential to fulfil their complementary but quite distinct functions.

Although Sir William may be admirably qualified for either of the positions in question, we do not believe that he or anyone else should hold both simultaneously. Yours faithfully,
PETER PLOWDEN,
General Secretary, British Actors Equity Association,
8 Harley Street, W1.

Women's equality

From Mr George Mandel

Sir, I wish Jill Tweedie's letter about women in the SDP (February 23) had contained less abuse and more of the thoughtfulness she claims to favour. One question that thoughtful members of the SDP might like to consider, especially if they have not made up their minds how to vote in the forthcoming ballot on the proposal at issue (that half the places on the party's National Council should be reserved for women), is what will happen if the proposal is adopted and subsequently regretted. Getting it rescinded will not be at all easy. Altering a provision of the constitution will require a two-thirds majority on the council; but what council elected under such a system is ever likely to contain such a majority?

To elect a council that is abolitionist on this issue would require far more than a two-thirds majority among SDP members of a whole — something that is unlikely to be the case with any other provision of the constitution. This built-in self-perpetuation of the proposed rule ought to be more widely understood, because it shows up the rule's fundamentally undemocratic nature so clearly. Yours faithfully,
GEORGE MANDEL,
The Old Stores,
Combe,
Oxford,
February 28.

Seats of punishment

From Professor C. P. Fitzgerald

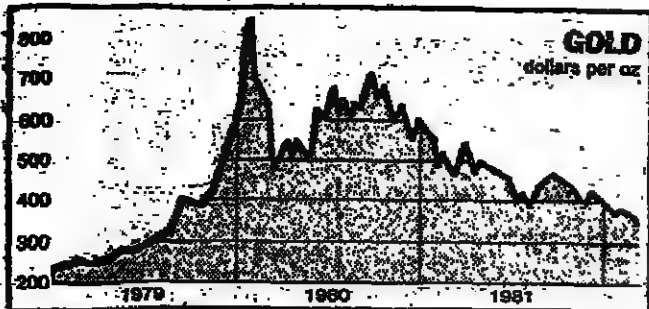
Sir, In the article of March 3 "Few will escape a belt laws" the article concludes with the dread admonition that "the driver will be responsible for ensuring that children under 14 are belted in a front seat." With, or without, their parents' consent? Yours faithfully,
C. P. FITZGERALD,
Seville Club,
69 Brook Street, W1,
March 3.

Yours faithfully

Yours faithfully,
KENNETH M. SPENCE,
60 Ellery Street,
Fulham, SW6,
February 25.

BUSINESS NEWS

Gold fall continues



The price of gold fell below \$350 an ounce yesterday for the first time since September 1979, closing \$325.25 down in London at \$344.25. This represents a loss of \$22.25 on the week, and compares with \$400 an ounce fetched at the beginning of the year. Heavy persistent selling yesterday, came with gloom over world recession and high interest rates, coupled with worries that more long-term holders of gold, notably in the Middle East, may try to sell.

SE supports dealers' rules

The Stock Exchange yesterday expressed support for the new rules controlling the activities of licensed dealers in securities.

However, it is not prepared to concede that stockbrokers should be bound by similar rules. One of the main amendments to the rules for licensed dealers proposed by the Department of Trade was that clients' money must be held in a separate bank account from company funds. The Stock Exchange insists that a similar requirement for stockbrokers is unnecessary.

Call to build warships

The Government has been urged to initiate a co-ordinated programme to boost sales of British-built warships to foreign navies. Ministers have also been asked to consider allowing British shipbuilders to build warship hulls on a speculative basis to preserve skills and maintain employment. No orders have been taken in the past eight years. The all party Industry and Trade Select Committee, said yesterday that the Corporation felt the Government was not backing the corporation's warship marketing effort sufficiently.

Weather hits beer output

Beer production in January dropped 21.5 per cent, because of the bad weather, according to the Brewers' Society. December's weather hit sales leaving higher stocks than usual in the retail pipeline, with a consequent decline in January orders. Poor weather in early January compounded the effect. The underlying trend is of a 6 per cent fall with current retail sales of beer down by at least that amount.

Development of a new North Sea oil field, the north east of Aberdeen, was nearer yesterday with the announcement of a successful well by the British National Oil Corporation on block 16/21b.

MARKET SUMMARY

Gifts are Budget gamble

LONDON EXCHANGE

FT Index 656.7 up 1.5
FT 100 67.92 up 0.47
FT All share 321.73 up 0.24
Bargains 23,830

Interest rates continue to dominate market sentiment yesterday as both gilts and equities advanced in active trading.

Government securities were the main feature, scoring 5½% up to 3½% in long and 5½% in shorts as the market gambled on a further 1½% per cent cut in interest rates ahead of next Tuesday's budget.

The bulls again gained the upper hand in equities, where the FT index closed 1.5 up at 656.7, having been 2.4 higher at midday. Oils remained dull, still reflecting Wall Street's poor reception to the decision by ENOC to cut the price of North Sea oil by up to \$4 a barrel. Shell Transport slipped 4p to 33p 3/4 at a line of 200,000 shares came on offer, with Ultramar leading 12p 1/2. A seller at 175,000 failed to agree on the right price.

Fleet Holdings, the Trafalgar House offshoot, its debut closing at 23p, after 24p, which values the company at about £14m, with about 10 million of the total 60 million share changing hands. Trafalgar House ended 1p lower at 12 1/2p.

Video group intervention has been suspended at 10p as the group prepares to make the change from rule 163 to the unlisted securities market. Mean-

COMMODITIES

● Silver and platinum followed gold down. Silver spot bullion was fixed at 412.35p an ounce, a fall of 14.9p, and the lowest since 1979. Three months bullion was down by 15.55p to 426.1p an ounce.

● Platinum reached its lowest point since 1978, falling by \$10 to \$326.50 an ounce. No recovery is expected in either silver or platinum until gold revives.

● Tin slipped again despite support by the International Tin Agreement buffer stock. Cash tin was £7,045 a tonne, 23s a tonne lower on the day, and three months metal fell 220 to £7,275. Tin for immediate delivery traded down to £8,990 in the morning. Purchases by consumers who have taken advantage of lower prices were less evident, and the broker identified with the buying group which dominated the market was a lender of forward metal.

TODAY

Housing starts and completions (January); house renovations (fourth quarter); hire purchase and other instalment credit business (January); company liquidity survey (fourth quarter).

Board meetings: Interim; Courty Pope Holdings, R.P. Martin, RVO Estates, Westminster and Country Properties. Final: Alliance Trust, Ault and Wiborg, Romal Tea, Williamson & Co.

OTHER EXCHANGES

Tokyo/Nikkei Dow Jones 119.60, 7,354.82 down 11.60, 119.60

Hongkong: Hang Seng Index 1,140.58 down 56.11

There were also sellers of 300,000 London Bank, unchanged at 79p, 250,000 Courtauld up 3p at 84p, 75,000 Standard Chartered down 2p at 87p, 150,000 GIB & Duffin down 3p at 145p, and 100,000 Imperial Continental Gas down 5p at 183p.

Burmab's bid for Croda has lapsed after Burmah refused to raise its original offer of 70p. Burmah's share with acceptance amounted to only 18.38 per cent of the ordinary shares.

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Strike may cost railways Post Office contract

The Post Office is considering switching a larger proportion of letters and parcels to road and air transport as a result of the disruption to the postal service caused by the recent series of train drivers' strikes.

This new tough stance is being adopted by PO executives in negotiations that are now taking place with British Rail over the renewal of contracts — worth £49m last year to the rail network — for the distribution of mail.

Post Office negotiators, led by Mr Alan Clinton, the

only major inconvenience suffered by the Post Office during the 17 days of strike action was in sorting the mail. Because of the lack of overnight mail trains — the PO's travelling sorting offices — letters had to be sent out from different

centres causing dislocation in service.

As a result, only 70 per cent of first class mail was delivered the following day after posting compared with the figure of 90 per cent usually claimed by the Post Office. In consequence, the Post Office is claiming compensation from the railways of about £2m.

The Post Office has distributed the mail by train for more than 100 years and recognizes that there is no practicable alternative for most letters and parcels. During the rail strikes, it

assured postal workers' unions that all mail diverted to other means of transport would return to the trains once the dispute was settled.

However, Mr Clinton and his team are attempting to extract the most advantageous terms from BR which is aware that the loss of just 2 per cent of the postal business could be worth £1m a year in revenue.

A PO spokesman said yesterday: "The Post Office owes it to its customers to get the best possible deal."

British Rail has estimated that its revenue losses during the six-week drivers' dispute were more than £60m and fears that up to £150m a year of freight and passenger business could be lost permanently.

Discussions on the contract renewal are taking place against a background of Post Office confidence that it will turn in a profit of £80m this year and dismaying that it will be unable to meet its £220m investment plans next year because of continuing government-imposed financial constraints.

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

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ACC group to study all offers

By Philip Robinson

The directors of Associated Communications Corporation yesterday set up a four-man committee to consider all takeover bids for Lord Grade's former company. But the committee

excluded Australian financier Mr Robert Holmes, a Court, whose Bell Group has two bids in for ACC, one for £36m and another for £46m.

This would save Mr Holmes a Court from stepping aside as chairman of ACC should anyone consider that his research staff at Leatherhead he said: "There is a tendency, which I find regrettable, to use the public sector in general as a whipping boy for the nation's present economic difficulties."

It is not surprising if there is a feeling among staff that however hard they work, however well they face challenges, they can, in the eyes of some ministers, never get it right, simply because they work in a public enterprise."

Mr England's remarks are unlikely to endear him to the Government. They are made at a particularly sensitive time since no fewer than four of the five full-time board members of the CEBG, including Mr England him-

self, have contracts which run out during the next two months.

Mr Nigel Lawson, the Secretary of State for Energy, has given no indication so far whether he intends to renew any of the appointments. He has been very critical of the performance of the industry and there is speculation that he intends to use the opportunity to make radical changes in the board's key personnel.

Mr England's 144,000-a-year job is thought to be particularly vulnerable. The men whose appointments are at risk are Mr England, his deputy chairman Mr Fred Bonner, Mr Gil Blackman who is in charge of the CEBG's day-to-day operations, and Mr Dennis Lomer, the board member in charge of the CEBG's round-the-clock power station construction programme.

Against this background Mr England's speech yesterday was being seen as one of barely concealed defiance.

By Johnathan Davis, Energy Correspondent

Mr Glyn England, chairman of the Central Electricity Generating Board, made a thinly veiled attack yesterday on the Government's persistent criticism of the performance of nationalized industries. Speaking to his research staff at Leatherhead he said: "There is a tendency, which I find regrettable, to use the public sector in general as a whipping boy for the nation's present economic difficulties."

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Mr Lawson: critical of industry's performance



Mr England: job vulnerable

CEGB chief defies Lawson criticism

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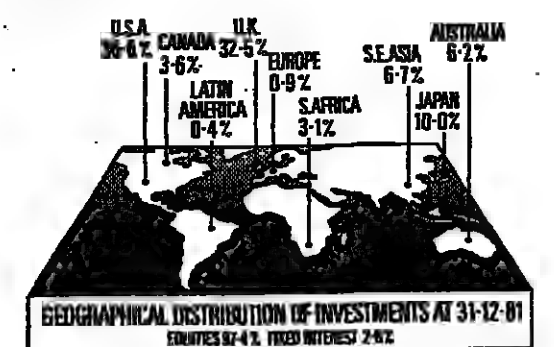
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Scottish United Investors

Summary of the year

	1981	1980
Total Assets	£133,164,898	£130,421,687
Net Assets	122,953,954	115,848,227
Net Asset Value	73.9p	69.7p
Gross Revenue	6,482,238	5,919,494
Net Revenue	2,639,493	2,509,803
Dividend	1.60p	1.53p



PRINCIPALLY INVESTED OVERSEAS

Copies of the Accounts available from: SCOTTISH UNITED INVESTORS plc, 37 RENFIELD STREET, GLASGOW G2 1JU

M. J. H. Nightingale & Co. Limited

27/28 Lovat Lane London EC3R 8EB Telephone 01-621 1212

The Over-the-Counter Market

1981/82	1980/81	Company	Price	Change	Gross	Yield	Dividend	Final	Final
1981/82	1980/81	Company	Price	Change	Gross	Yield	Dividend	Final	Final
125	100	Ass Brit Ind CULS	125	+	10.0	8.0	—	—	—
55	62	Airtrung Group	72	+	4.7	6.5	11.4	15.8	—
51	33	Almington & Rhodes	45	+	4.3	9.5	3.8	8.5	—
205	187	Bardon Hill	198	+	9.7	4.4	9.6	11.7	—
105	100	CCL 11% Conv Pref	105	+	15.7	15.0	—	—	—
104	67	Deborah Services	67	+	6.0	9.0	3.3	6.3	—
131	97	Frank Horsell	130	+	6.4	4.9	11.7	24.1	—
83	39	Frederick Parker	81	+	6.4	7.9	4.1	7.9	—
76	46	George Blair	52	—	—	—	—	—	—
102	93	Ind Prof Castings	95	+	7.3	7.7	6.8	10.3	—
108	100	Isis Conv Pref	106	+	7.0	7.3	3.0	6.8	—
113	94	Jackson Group	96	+	8.7	7.8	8.2	10.3	—
130	108	James Burrough	112	+	8.7	7.8	8.2	10.3	—
334	248	Robert Jenkins	250	+	31.3	12.5	3.5	8.8	—
61	51	Scotway "A"	61	+	5.3	8.7	9.4	8.7	—
222	159	Trotter & Carlisle	159	+	10.7	6.7	5.1	9.5	—
15	10	Twinklford Ord	13%	—	—	—	—	—	—
80	66	Twinklford 15% ULS	78	+	15.0	19.2	—	—	—
44	25	Unilock Holdings	25	+	3.0	12.0	4.5	7.6	—
103	73	Walker Alexander	77	+	6.4	8.3	5.1	9.0	—
263	212	W. S. Yates	226	+	13.1	5.8	4.3	8.7	—

Prices now available on Prestel page 48146

BUSINESS NEWS/COMPANIES AND MARKET REPORTS

Wondering about Woolworth... oil cheers

Talking shop with men from the City

Woolworths has invited City analysts to come in and talk about its profits next week (Sally White writes)

This may not, on the surface, be a remarkable event. But given facts that the profits are expected to slump heavily, and that for months now the shares have been bought only because they stand at a third of the historic assets, or a quarter of the current-cost assets, it is thought that Woolworths might just have some good news to impart.

Estimates of the pretax figures, from Woolworths for the full year, range from £23m to £30m. Most of the analysts are bunched around the £26m to £30m level.

At about the £28m the earnings per share are about 3.5 on a full tax basis. The yield is about 12 per cent. In spite of aggressive marketing, with cuts in prices to try to pull in customers, the long-awaited recovery in Woolworths' retail sales was still failing to appear.

Mr Geoffrey Rodgers, the chairman, has been encouraging the development of a whole host of new ideas. DIY has received the most publicity. But the "Wonder of Woolworths" promotional line has not so far materialized in hard figures.

So the trading and profit performance to be revealed by Woolworths next week is awaited with interest. The group has not been over-generous with information about itself over the past few months. There have been such worrying changes as the demoting of the credit rating of the parent group in the United States.

Most of the news that we have been following is the trail of announcements of the shops that they have been selling off, said one



Still looking for recovery in the High Street

of the analysts. "What we want to know is how much they have raised — it only to see how much is left. But most important is the retailing performance. If they have failed to meet expectations again, then we will be back to scrutinising the property portfolio."

Historic assets stand at 152p a share, and on a current-cost basis, 205p. Closing price today was 55p. Woolworths is undoubtedly a superb property portfolio. The bulk of the shops are freehold properties, and they are scattered around the most important shopping centres of the country.

Curiously, brokers report more private client buyers of the stock as a property speculation than institutions — possibly because many institutions have long been state bulls, and do not want to extend their risks.

There has been no sign of any buyer. The United States parent is, of course, the key to the company's position — it owns 53 per cent of Woolworths in this country.

The share price has been very stable recently at the mid-50s. That was over 1980, in the year of the £225,000 to £1,635,000 but the company said the improvement in the automotive supply side came from measures taken, not an upturn in business.

Components take a back seat

British Leyland's profits continue to present a tale of woe — a large reason why investment interest has turned its back on the motor component sector (Sally White writes). The best news from the industry so far this year was the forecast that the volume of cars would go from 394,000 in 1981 to 450,000 this year.

Motor component suppliers, have seen some stock market buying recently — particularly Associated Engineering.

Expectations of Associated Engineering's pre-tax profits for the year to September are about £10m to £14m. But for the year after that, Hemmerson Croshaw are going for £17m-£18m. That is as much from cost cutting as increased demand. On that basis the earnings are selling on multiples of around just under 12 and just over 6.

Birmid Quacast recently reported good news for the year to September. Earnings were £225,000 to £1,635,000 but the company said the improvement in the automotive supply side came from measures taken, not an upturn in business.

Allied to a weak pound

Allied Colloids, the Bradford-based specialist chemicals producer is one company which will welcome the drop in North Sea oil prices and any consequent weakening of sterling (Drew Johnston writes). For not only does it export four-fifths of its output, but its raw materials are also derived from oil-based products.

These factors are partly responsible for taking the shares to 186p, which is a high for the year. Allied is vulnerable to a strong sterling/dollar exchange rate, but has been making the most of the present circumstances. For the six months to October 1981, pretax profits were £4m. In the previous full year the profit was only £4.04m. (Some analysts are now forecasting profit of £9m for the year to March, on a fully-rated basis of 17.8).

For the following year, analysts at De Zoete & Beyer, the stockbrokers are looking for a further profits improvement to about £11.5m.

Allied supplies its high technology chemical products to the mining, textiles and oil industries. Early this year it announced it had bought 70 acres of land in Suffolk, Virginia, to build a manufacturing plant. The City approved of the location because Allied already conducts a lot of its business in the United States and knows the market well.

Likely from the company's cost-cutting operation over the last few years and the expectation of higher dividends also helped the share price to rise.

The dividend could rise by between 15 and 20 per cent to an estimated 4.6p, giving a gross dividend yield of 2.6 per cent.

There is some speculation that the shares have strengthened on the possibility of a takeover bid.

In 1979 the shares were suspended after an approach from an American company, believed to have been Merck.

The latest speculation points to a possible bid from Burmah, the oil company.

INTERNATIONAL



Japan

The Japanese Government and the car industry have not decided on the ceiling for car exports to the United States in the 1982 fiscal year starting next month, according to international Trade Ministry officials in Tokyo.

A spokesman for the Japan Automobile Manufacturers' association said the private industrial organization did not know when a self-restraint limit, yet to be calculated, would be announced.

Hitachi of Japan said yesterday it had developed a copper-carbon material for semiconductors that would replace expensive materials such as tungsten and molybdenum used in the silicon chip computer memory device. Four Japanese groups have been jointly awarded a \$400m (216.8m) order by Indonesia's state oil company, Pertamina, for a petrochemical plant and equipment.

CHINA

Swindlers who made huge profits by selling fake American shares have been arrested in Peking. The Workers Daily said the gang hit on the idea of selling the shares after reading that frozen United States assets in China would be released under an agreement reached in 1979. Customers were told they would receive up to \$550,000 in dividends if they bought enough shares.

AUSTRALIA

A Japanese textile company paid a world record price for a bale of wool at an Australian wool sale yesterday.

The price of 12,500 cents (£7.60) a kilo for the superfine merino fleece wool was way above the previous record of 4,600 cents set by the same company, Fujii Keori of Osaka, in 1973. The need to hold down wage increases will slow Australia's economic growth, says the Commonwealth Banking Corporation. Australia's inflation rate is increasing, and measures to hold down wages will restrict growth for the rest of 1982 and "some time beyond," the Commonwealth forecast.

UNITED STATES

The United States should increase strategic stocks of grain and petrol to help stabilize prices and hold down inflation, according to the Brookings Institution, an independent research organization.

Orders booked by United States industry declined 1.2 per cent in January, following the December drop of 0.3 per cent. Stocks held by industry in January fell 0.4 per cent.

FRANCE

Electricity prices go up 10 per cent and gas prices up seven per cent in France today. Domestic heating oil and diesel oil go up marginally, but petrol is reduced by five centimes.

WEST GERMANY

Otto Lambsdorff, Economics Minister, is confident that West Germany's gross national product will grow a real or price adjusted 1.5 per cent in 1981. The minister said that the seasonally unadjusted jobless rate would average around 7 per cent and that the consumer price rise would be limited to 5 per cent on average.

MERCANTILE

Limited recovery

Mercantile Credit, the Barclay's Bank finance house, boosted pretax profit 37 per cent to £52m from £38m for the year to December 1981.

Relief for the year was up from £76m to £111m, to give a post tax profit of £163m against £114m last time. Minorities were £1.2m against £1.16m, and dividends absorbed £146m against

MINING

Operations slow down

Mitchell Cotts, which earns almost three quarters of its profits in South Africa, warned shareholders yesterday that its mining companies were beginning to feel the effect of an increasing slow-down in work.

It says predicting profits for the year to June has become difficult as a result, although, some companies could become even more reasonably well.

The statement came as Gold dropped through the £350 (£193) an ounce barrier which is thought likely to produce a slow-down in mining operations in South Africa and have the knock-on effect on Cotts mining equipment operations.

Yesterday Cotts reported a 20 per cent increase in pretax profits for the six months to the end of last December at £4.3m on a turnover up 19 per cent to £190.5m.

Much of the increase came from the British transportation side, helped by the South African Bruda International transport firm bought earlier last year.

However, attributable profits rose from £580,000 to £3.3m as a result of profits on sale-and-lease-back property deals in South Africa, and analysts are looking for full-year pretax profits of £10.5m against £9.8m last time.

That should include a 10 per cent deposit from the £160m Nigerian College contract for which financing arrangements have just been finalised, but which Cotts says is not expected to bring significant profits before next year.

The group's interest charge continues to rise, up 14 per cent to £3.1m for the half year. Mr Peter MacKenna, the finance director, declined to talk about the company's borrowings.

Cotts is paying a gross 2.142p half-time dividend against 0.937p to reduce the disparity between the two half-yearly payments.

RANSOMES
Ransomes Sims & Jeffries, the East Anglian agricultural machinery manufacturer, returned to profits in the second half of its financial year, but £1.05m pretax this is less than half the £2.31m of the previous year.

Base Lending Rates
ABN Bank 13 1/2%
Barclays 13 1/2%
BCCI 13 1/2%
Consolidated Crds. 13 1/2%
C. Hoare & Co. 13 1/2%
Lloyds Bank 13 1/2%
Midland Bank 13 1/2%
Nat Westminster 13 1/2%
TSB 13 1/2%
Williams & Glyn's 13 1/2%

RENTOKIL

Record profits

Killing pests, preserving wood and industrial hygiene gave Rentokil a record level of pretax profits, up 11 per cent to £14.2m, in the year to December.

The group says it could have carried out more work in preserving timber but had difficulty finding one of the main products used — a by-product from copper mining.

The United Kingdom business produced a healthy growth, with profits up 10.5 per cent to £10.5m. Overall, the overseas profits rose by

11.6 per cent to £3.7m but the various divisions showed mixed results.

Losses from the United States business increased to £822,000, against £151,000, but Rentokil believes these will be reduced in the present year. Profits here are still a few years away but for the group as a whole 1982 is expected to see further growth.

DEREK CROUCH
Worst year
Derek Crouch, the open-cut mining and construction group, is meeting increased resistance from architects and clients who avoid settling outstanding contracts.

Mr Derek Crouch, chairman, said yesterday that claims worth about £2.5m are being pursued. They are connected with local authority housing contracts, an industrial contract in the Midlands and the over-run of a large contract in the North-west. Costs have yet to be reimbursed.

He said the company was now diversifying into private construction to reduce its dependence on the public sector.

The news came with results for the year ended in December, which the company described as its worst trading year. Low demand, high interest rates and bad weather in December were blamed for poor results.

Pretax profits fell to £2.4m compared with £3m last time on sales which slumped £11m to £54.6m. Nevertheless, the group is holding the final gross dividend at 4.89p, making a total payment of 7.21p.

General Mining Union Corporation Limited

(Incorporated in the Republic of South Africa)

AUDITED CONSOLIDATED RESULTS 1981

Earnings per share increased by 17%
Dividends per share increased by 17%

	1981	1980
Group Income before Taxation	(R million)	476.1
Group Income after Taxation	(R million)	408.7
Attributable earnings	(R million)	319.8
per share	(cents)	401.0
no. of shares	(million)	79.8
Dividends	(R million)	139.6
per share	(cents)	175
Net Asset Value	(R million)	2,503.4
per share	(cents)	3,138
no. of shares	(million)	79.8

On 11 April 1981, the 1,170,000 'A' ordinary shares, which were issued in 1980, were converted into ordinary shares and have been taken into account in calculating earnings per share for 1981.

The full results for 1981 will be dealt with in the annual report which will be issued on 31 March 1982. It is, however, expected that, in the absence of unforeseen circumstances, the level of earnings for 1981 will possibly again be achieved in the current year.

4 March 1982

Copies of the full preliminary announcement may be obtained from the London Office of the Company at 30 Bly Place, London EC1N 6UA.

Notice of Redemption

International Standard Electric Corporation

9% Sinking Fund Debentures due 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to the provisions of the Indenture dated as of April 1, 1970 between International Standard Electric Corporation and The Chase Manhattan Bank (National Association) as Trustee, \$4,630,000 in aggregate principal amount of the above-captioned Debentures will be redeemed for the sinking fund on April 1, 1982 at the redemption price of 100% of the principal amount thereof, together with accrued interest to April 1, 1982.

The numbers of the Debentures to be redeemed are as follows:

M 4	2043	3387	4658	8519	7044	8277	9463	10700	12337	14557	16723	18296	19750	21343	22366	23622	25635	26981	28177
6	3076	3383	4564	5328	7049	8283	9061	10710	12340	13943	15614	17351	19156	21031	22976	25002	27119	29328	31730
10	2102	3384	4666	5526	7062	8301	9103	10723	12356	14000	15761	17639	19635	21750	23993	26365	28867	31500	34274
49	8114	9468	4889	5327	7062	8306	9142	10724	12371	14046	15847	17787	19858	22061	24397	26876	29498	32265	35178
80	3121	3455	4716	5565	7100	8323	9149	10723	12394	14097	15937	17917	19939	22004	24213	26567	29067	31714	34508
348	2151	3477	4716	5577	7101	8326	9177	10732	12397	14100	15940	17920	19942	22007	24216	26570	29070	31717	34511
353	2186	3475	4715	5577	7110	8327	9178	10733	12400	14103	15943	17923	19945	22010	24219	26573	29073	31720	34514
481	2189	3505	4719	5588	7114	8339	9184	10740	12408	14111	15951	17931	19953	22018	24227	26581	29081	31728	34522
811	2211	3527	4721	5594	7113	8359	9193	10750	12416	14114	15954	17934	19956	22021	24230	26584	29084	31735	34533
812	2251	3543	4735	5673	7231	8389	9250	10754	12458	14118	15958	17938	19960	22023	24232	26586	29086	31738	34535
814	2321	3544	4736	5685	7236	8452	9259	10759	12463	14119	15959	17939	19961	22024	24233	26587	29087	31739	34536
518	2251	3548	4740	5688	7238	8458	9260	10760	12464	14120	15960	17940	19962	22025	24234	26588	29088	31740	3453

PEOPLE

Lloyd has new man of steel

Forward, discreet, accountant, Mr Lewis Robertson. He is the new chairman of F. H. Lloyd, the steelmaker. Outwardly Lloyd has got on rather well without a Supreme, since the turbulence of last August when Mr Ronald Middleton the chairman resigned, was, in the event, not asked to take office and Mr Robert Foster the former incumbent, decided to stay on after planning to resign.

Key to this strange sequence was Cooper Industries which seemed to succeed with a boardroom coup on the back of a 25 per cent shareholding which it still has. The investment protection committee of the British Insurance Association started, however, to throw its weight about noisily, but effectively to spoil Cooper's game and with the help of headhunters has now discovered Robertson, 59, who tells me: "there is nothing organically wrong with Lloyd; it needs several months of calming down."



Mr Lewis Robertson

Alhaji M. T. Bature, managing director of Nigeria Airways is also a civil servant and a barrister. Surprisingly, perhaps he wants to see Nigeria Airways back in private hands. "We are in a very bad shape and slowing down all our projects," he said. "I would like to go private but I think I would still like to see the Nigerian Government have a say in the airline." It could be a private company within three years, he thinks, and once the loans are converted into equity, the airline could have capital of £200m instead of the current overdraft of £10m.



It's the new Government health warning. It says: "Non-smoking is bad for revenue."

J. R. hampered, not harassed

An eventual first visit to London this week for Dr Jacques Rouquié. He is the president of the tourist committee of Lot, the French wine region of Bordeaux and north of Toulouse where the foie gras comes from. He led a crowd of Lot hoteliers and restaurateurs who were to be hosts at a lunch to launch the publication in this country of the *Legis de France* hotel guide.

With the delegation was supposed to arrive, a hamper of Lot specialties, foie gras, truffles and fillet of smoked goose — but alas, British Airways said, the hamper was still in Paris — or somewhere.

Luckily BA managed to find and fly over the hamper just in time for lunch — whereupon one of the guests said: "Er, I'm a vegetarian."

Dr Rouquié shrugged and said in French: "All's well that ends well," and got on with the first course, a walnut salad.

It will be fizzy drinks from vending machines round every corner soon if The Can Makers have their way. It is a trade organization just formed by the big can makers partly as a defence in the battle with glass and plastic bottles, as chairman John Preston admits. Preston, sales and marketing director of American Can (UK), yesterday launched a £100,000 scheme to persuade a 50-50 cost basis the fillers of cans to flood Britain with fizzy drink vending machines. We have only about 1,000 at present.

Peter Wainwright

NEW APPOINTMENTS

Mr Leslie Carpenter, chief executive of the publishing and printing product area, has been appointed to the post of chief executive of Reed International from October 1, 1982. Sir Alex Forrest will continue as chairman of Reed International until 1985.

Amersham affair — how much are the City experts really worth?

Mr Michael Richardson of N. Rothschild & Son is said to be close to the Prime Minister. It is ironic, therefore, that he should be at the centre of the storm over the Government's sale to the private sector last week of Amersham International which makes radio-active isotopes. Mr Richardson, head of corporate finance at Rothschild, is blamed on all sides for pricing Amersham too low and thereby depriving the Exchequer of £25m, or, in his defence, a writer, a couple of hospitalists.

The Amersham affair has damaged not only the reputation of Rothschild, but of the City generally. Predictably, Labour MPs have described the affair in terms of yet more City profiteering at the expense of the taxpayer. Those in the know make money; those outside the charmed circle lose out. Following on the heels of the privatization of British Aerospace last spring and Cable and Wireless in the autumn, the charge is that the Government has not only pursued its ideological aim of transferring public assets to the private sector, but in so doing, has made a great deal of money for its friends in the City.

But it is not only left-wing politicians and the taxpayer who have watched in anger or bewilderment as the speculators rush to make a sure-fire killing.

Industrialists, suffering the worst recession in 50 years and forced to close many factories, are scathing in private at what they regard as the City's easy money-making machine.

Amersham, offered for sale at 142p, rose to 192p within two days, giving the stage a varying degree of good fortune.

It is not just the large premiums achieved on Amersham, and the two earlier privatizations, which have angered the men at the sharp end. The age-old suspicion of those who make money from money instead of things, rose up once more when it was learned that the total cost of the £71m Amersham issue was £25m. Broken down, Rothschild acting as merchant bank, adviser to the Department of Energy, and Morgan Grenfell, acting for the company, picked up £310,000 between them. The stockbrokers and underwriters made £844,000. National Westminster, which was basically a clearing house for the application forms, collected £500,000, while the Government's stamp duty took £750,000.

"We live in two completely different worlds," the deputy

managing director of one of Britain's largest multi-nationals says.

"We have subsidiaries employing high powered managers engaged in the newest technology, which do not earn £310,000 a year. The bankers fee for Amersham."

"The Government, or anyone else, should not pay for bad advice."

"The City should adopt the same values as the private manufacturing sector. That is to provide value for money."

This senior industrialist believes that the fees of merchant banks and stockbrokers should be published and should be in the case of takeovers, be taken off the final price paid by the bidding company.

Two years ago, GEC initially refused to pay Scherer Waggs a fee, estimated at £500,000, for its unsuccessful defence of Aveyr, the weighing machine people. That bid battle lasted a year, went to the Monopolies Commission and at the end of the day, GEC had to pay more than it had planned to buy Aveyr, and was then faced with a bill from the bank which forced it into that position.

Negotiations to reduce the fee dragged on for some time and not an example to other companies that they need not pay up then moan, rather, they can negotiate in the knowledge that there is no legal liability to pay the bill.

Like GEC, most large companies do not pay an annual retainer to a financial adviser. Much of the routine advice from a merchant bank or stockbroker, ranging from the presentation of annual accounts, through how to avoid an unwelcome bid, to dividend policy, is in effect free. This free advice must be taken into account when the fees for a niche issue or takeover are presented.

So say the merchant bankers. But many industrialists argue that there is no excuse for the scale fees charged as a matter of "custom and habit".

Basically, merchant banks and stockbrokers charge a

Company	Merchant bank	Value of offer	Total cost
British Aerospace	Kleinwort, Benson	£150m	£3.6m
Cable & Wireless	Kleinwort, Benson	£224m	£3.9m
Amersham International	N M Rothschild, Morgan, Grenfell	£71m	£2.6m

*Includes underwriting fees plus fees payable to merchant bank, stockbroker, legal expenses and cost of prospectus.



The rush is on as Amersham goes up for sale

more or less standard fee for both offers for sale and rights issues. The underwriter, usually the merchant bank handling the issue, will pay the sub-underwriters, (those who guarantee to pick up any shares not taken up by the investing public) a fee totalling 1 1/2 per cent of the issue. The merchant bank itself would normally receive 1/2 per cent while the stockbrokers fee would be 1/4 per cent.

Expressed in fractions, these seem relatively small sums. But they are substantial when BP is raising £24m or the Government is seeking £224m from the public for the sale of a majority stake in Cable & Wireless and £150m from the British Aerospace offer.

Mr Tim Barker of Kleinwort Benson, who handles the BA and Cable & Wireless issues, defends the fees charged.

Kleinwort charged the Government an amount in both cases which was rather less than would be payable in a conventional issue. Mr Barker points out that this fee of 1/2 per cent was split between four banks in the case of BA and three in the Cable & Wireless offer.

For its fees, Kleinwort masterminded all the financial preparations. It brought together lawyers, accountants, and clearing banks and organized an independent auditors report.

While keeping Government and company happy for more than a year by allaying a multitude of fears, Kleinwort, in the case of BA, had to judge the effects of the Defence Review upon the company's prospects. The Cable & Wireless offer was complicated by waiting for guarantees that licences would be granted by the authorities in Bahrain and Hong Kong, both profitable areas for the company.

Although midnight oil is burned, countless meetings held and events around the world closely watched, much of the work involved in producing the prospectus is mechanical and could be handled by a word-processor.

But where the banks and brokers say that they really earn their fees is in bearing the risks involved.

This is the crux. Judging by their initial stock market performance, BA, C & W and Amersham proved to have been under-priced and were seen to be so by investors. So there was no solid case for guaranteeing the success of the issue when there was only a minimal risk involved. This was the view taken by Mr Nicholas Ridley, Financial Secretary at the Treasury, who would have preferred a tender offer for Amersham by which investors bid their own prices for the shares.

What angers those outside the City is the feeling that merchant bankers and brokers seem to get all the help it needs, and that the banks (as well as the Chancellor) are seen to be playing their part.

That may or may not mean the introduction of the Grylls' scheme (on some variation) for net interest payments by industry, a scheme about which some banks are more enthusiastic than others. It will almost certainly mean that the banks will have to watch the balance of their personal and industrial lending as the economy recovers.

It may also mean that the monetary authorities will have to take a fresh look at the ever expanding role of the banks as the major financial intermediaries, first from the viewpoint of seeking ways to neutralize the monetary impact, and secondly from the prudential desirability of seeing the ratio of public sector assets in bank balance sheets steadily evaporating.

Second, the City should examine the question of how it is rewarded for risk. Scale fees are not broken down in offer documents and it is difficult, particularly in takeovers, for a company to know how much it will pay its advisers at the end of the day. Finally, how much should the Government or company pay for what is mainly routine work preparing the prospectus.

Such questions might best be answered by an in-depth investigation by the council for security industries. This might save the taxpayer money and the City's image.

Kevin Page

Business Editor

The banks reply to their critics

When attacked, produce a weighty document with which to hit your critics over the head — in whatever sense you choose. That, anyway, is what the clearing banks have done in reply to what they consider to be ill-founded criticisms of their role as providers of funds to United Kingdom industry.

One might, perhaps, add that the banks have taken their time in responding fully to an argument that has been rumbling on for several years now, not to mention the fact that they have not helped themselves in the past by providing so little maturity analysis of their loan books.

But some at least of the argument is of the barking the stable door after the horse has bolted variety. There is no doubt that the banks have changed their attitudes and practices quite considerably over recent years, partly in response to the increased competitive pressures within the banking system itself.

What is of key importance at the moment is that industry gets all the help it needs, and that the banks (as well as the Chancellor) are seen to be playing their part.

That may or may not mean the introduction of the Grylls' scheme (on some variation) for net interest payments by industry, a scheme about which some banks are more enthusiastic than others. It will almost certainly mean that the banks will have to watch the balance of their personal and industrial lending as the economy recovers.

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Kevin Page

recovery. In the States, the fall in the oil prices seems to be taken as just another sign of deepening world recession — with depression increasingly replacing recession in newspaper headlines.

As far as the stock market goes, the position is not being helped by stock sales to raise cash for margin calls on plummeting oil stocks. Meanwhile, few people are prepared to predict a floor for the gold price until something happens to mark the end of high real interest rates in America.

Zero-coupons

Japan acts

Spoilsports at the Japanese Finance Ministry have been threatening to ruin the fun of the Eurobond market's latest fad, zero-coupon bonds, ever since this sector took off in mid-January. Japanese investors have had a voracious appetite for these issues.

Against some expectations that the tax laws would be changed to reduce the attractions in such issues, a typical Japanese play has been used with local brokers now being "instructed" not to sell them to local residents. With more than \$7,000m zero-coupon issues in the last couple of months, the Japanese authorities were disturbed at the effect on their own capital market and more especially on what such inflows would do to the yen.

Rumours of such an informal ban sent the market into a spin on Wednesday as Japanese broking houses with big inventories swamped the market. Dealers, however, were amazed at how well the market recovered yesterday as buyers came out of the woodwork in Europe.

There is a technical explanation for this in that most zero-coupon issues were looking overvalued in any case and have now become that more attractive after this week's sharp falls. But the real reason is simply that investors still like the look of the capital gearing at a time of reducing interest rates, while with little of the maintenance costs involved in coupon clipping and so on in straight issues, zero-coupons are a lazy way of handling a Eurobond portfolio. Nothing really changes in the Eurobond business.

Markets

Opposing views

We now appear to have some diametrically opposed views of the world in London and Wall Street. Over here, the slump in oil prices is seen as a sign of hope, promising lower inflation and a stimulus to

The multi-million pound connection

TECHNOLOGY: OFFICE OF THE FUTURE

By Clive Cookson

Computing and business equipment companies are engaged in a ferocious battle over what is the best way of linking the components of the automated office of the future: computers, word processors, executive workstations and electronic files.

Hanging on the answer are billions of pounds worth of sales over the next decade.

Local area network (LAN) is the general term for the technique of connecting electronic equipment so that users can exchange information and share computing resources within an office. Researchers have come up with many different LAN configurations and ways of sorting the potentially chaotic flow of data, and corporate marketing forces are lecturing bewildered customers about the relative merits of "bus" or "ring" or "star" networks, "baseband" versus "broadband" capacity, "token passing" against "collision detecting" systems — to mention just a little of the jargon involved.

The most controversial and most heavily-promoted LAN is Ethernet, originally invented by Xerox but now a joint venture with two other American corporations, Digital Equipment and Intel. Ethernet makes its British commercial debut later this month when Rank Xerox installs a small network at the Sun Life Assurance office in Bristol; it will start off with a word processor attached to a central computer. The second British Ethernet will be a £250,000 network with 30 terminals at the Greater London Council, which should be installed by May.

In the United States, Ethernet experience dates back to the experimental network which Xerox began in 1975. Commercial sales did not begin until last year. Already 35 American companies operate Ethernet systems in their offices, and Xerox hopes to add several hundred more over the next few years.

But the early leader of the LAN pack is Arc, the network developed by Datapoint. This fast-growing Texan firm claims to have installed more than 2,000 Arcs since 1977, including 100 in Britain. This country's largest Arc system is in the London office of the Chase Manhattan Bank, with 40 workstations.

For most customers, the important difference between Arc and Ethernet is not in technology but in marketing

strategy. Xerox wants Ethernet to become the industry's standard for linking electronic equipment in an office. It has published all the network's specifications and any company can make Ethernet components without paying royalties (the only licensing fee is a nominal \$1,000 which Xerox says covers the costs of distributing the specifications).

Datapoint, in contrast, has kept Arc firmly in its own grasp as a closed, proprietary network. Its technical details are unpublished, and so far it has been licensed only to Tandem, the big American microcomputer manufacturer. A company opting for Arc commits itself to Datapoint office products, while an Ethernet customer can buy equipment from a variety of competing suppliers.

According to Mr William Lynch, technical planning manager in Xerox's office products division, 22 manufacturers have publicly declared their intention to make components and products compatible with Ethernet; the most recent company to sign up was Siemens, the West German electronics giant, last week. Already 10 firms are selling Ethernet-compatible workstations or terminals.

Technically, Ethernet and Arc are both "bus" networks, which use open-ended

coaxial cable to link their terminals. Each terminal has a special microprocessor to control the flow of information between it and the network.

But the two use different approaches to avoid the chaos of collisions that could arise if all machines on the network were free to talk to one another at any time.

Arc is a "token passing" system: an empty electronic packet, the so called token, continuously passes up and down the cable. When one of the terminals wants to send a message, it puts the digital information into the packet (unless it is full) and when the packet reaches the machine to which it is addressed, the data is removed and the token sent on its way again.

Ethernet's operating protocol is known as CSMA/CD, which stands for carrier sense multiple access with collision detection. What that means is that everyone on the network is allowed to transmit whenever they like; if the cable is already carrying someone else's message, the machine is told to wait a short random period and keep trying again until the line is clear.

Occasionally a collision will occur because two stations begin transmitting at the same moment, both believing the network to be clear; in that case each

station detects the collision, waits for a random interval and tries to send the message again.

In practice, since Ethernet can carry up to 10 million bits of data per second (equivalent to the contents of two full-length books), any message will arrive virtually instantaneously. When Digital Equipment studied Ethernet's capacity, it found that up to 2,000 active users could be attached to a single network before waiting times became significant (more than 1,000th of a second).

Although Ethernet's opponents have raised many technical arguments against the network — which are dismissed by Xerox as "myths" — the objection taken most seriously in the business equipment industry is that Ethernet is a baseband network. This means that it has just one channel; only one stream of signals can travel along the cable.

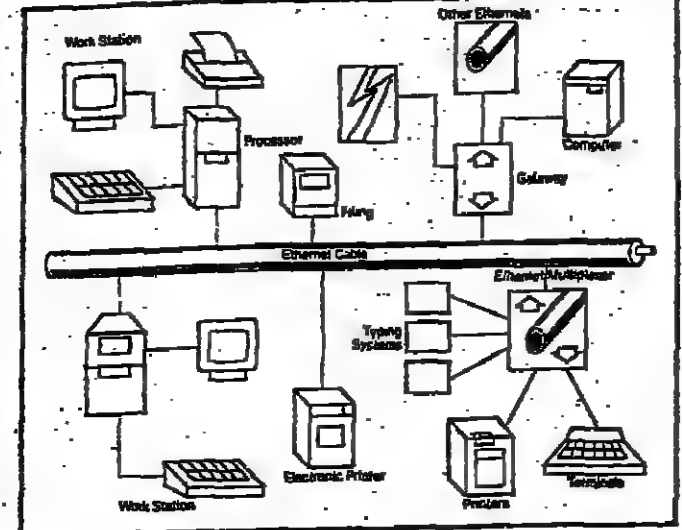
A baseband network does not have enough capacity on its single channel to carry voice and video communications as well as heavy volumes of computer data and electronic messages. A broadband network with cable carrying several channels — like the Wangnet being developed by Wang — is needed to intergrade office telephone and videoconferencing with data communications.

Xerox and other Ethernet proponents claim that the objection is irrelevant, that the next best device, because it will be simpler and more cost-effective to install separate telephone and video systems rather than try to combine everything in a single network.

A broadband network is considerably more expensive than baseband. Connection costs are trebled because the complex electronics needed to sort out communications on the various channels.

Arc has also started life as a baseband network. But Mr Victor Poor, Datapoint executive vice-president for research and development, says it can easily be upgraded to broadband, unlike Ethernet.

"Everyone who is promoting local area networks says their system is compatible with broadband, except Ethernet," says Mr Poor. "I think that's the Achilles heel of the system. It is my conviction that the broadband system is the only serious candidate for standardization in the long term."



The Xerox Ethernet cable connects a wide variety of "intelligent" office machines, allowing them to work together and exchange information as a single system.

SKF

Financial statement, 1981

SKF Group income for the year ending 31 Dec 1981 was 805 million Swedish kronor (MSkr) before exchange differences. Net sales for the Group rose 8.5 per cent.

	Jan-Dec 1981	Jan-Dec 1980
Sales (MSkr)	13,570	12,512
Operating income before depreciation (MSkr)	1,719	1,847
Income before exchange differences (MSkr)	805	953
Capital expenditure (MSkr)	622	492
Average number of employees	50,452	53,026

The rolling bearing sector continued to improve, with a profit of 851 million kronor (829 MSkr in 1980). On the other hand the steel division, facing price concessions due to an over-saturated market, showed a loss of 119 million kronor as opposed to its 1980 profit of 20 million.

Prospects of developing SKF 1982 activities favourably are considered good, the degree of change also depending on when exactly the economic upturn occurs.

Dividends and capitalisation

The Board and Managing Director recommend an unchanged dividend of 7 kronor for A and B shares, and 12 kronor per C share, as well as a 75th Anniversary bonus of one krona for each A and B share. In all, 187 million kronor.

The Board will also recommend shareholders at the Annual General Meeting to raise the Company's share capital to 1350 million kronor by increasing the book value of SKF's shareholding in Krängede AB by 270 million kronor, and issuing capitalisation shares whereby shareholders will receive one new share for every four of the same kind held.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Friday 28 May.

Aktiebolaget SKF, S-415 50 Göteborg, Sweden.

Gits surge ahead

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, March 1. Dealings End, March 12. Contango Day, March 15. Settlement Day, March 22.

Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

BELL'S
SCOTCH WHISKY
BELL'S

1981/82 High Low Stock Price Ch'ge Div Yld 1981/82 High Low Company Price Ch'ge Div Yld 1981/82 High Low Company Price Ch'ge Div Yld 1981/82 High Low Company Price Ch'ge Div Yld

BRITISH FUNDS

Table with 5 columns: Fund Name, 1981/82 High, 1981/82 Low, 1981/82 Stock Price, Change, Dividend, Yield. Includes funds like British Fund, British Bond, British Equity, etc.

COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN

Table with 5 columns: Fund Name, 1981/82 High, 1981/82 Low, 1981/82 Stock Price, Change, Dividend, Yield. Includes funds like Commonwealth Fund, Foreign Fund, etc.

BANKS AND DISCOUNTS

Table with 5 columns: Bank Name, 1981/82 High, 1981/82 Low, 1981/82 Stock Price, Change, Dividend, Yield. Includes banks like Allied Irish, Bank of America, etc.

BREWERS AND DISTILLERS

Table with 5 columns: Company Name, 1981/82 High, 1981/82 Low, 1981/82 Stock Price, Change, Dividend, Yield. Includes companies like Allied-Lenox, Bell's, etc.

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL

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	26 ¹ / ₂	27 ¹ / ₂
	12 ¹ / ₂	12 ¹ / ₂
Prices		
min	18 ¹ / ₂	19 ¹ / ₂
min	24 ¹ / ₂	25
res	35	35 ¹ / ₂
res	37 ¹ / ₂	37 ¹ / ₂
urst	45 ¹ / ₂	45 ¹ / ₂
	15 ¹ / ₂	16 ¹ / ₂
	12 ¹ / ₂	13 ¹ / ₂
Can	13 ¹ / ₂	13 ¹ / ₂
Min	20 ¹ / ₂	20 ¹ / ₂
Oil	47 ¹ / ₂	48 ¹ / ₂
	41	41
il	21 ¹ / ₂	22 ¹ / ₂
	15	15 ¹ / ₂
	25 ¹ / ₂	25 ¹ / ₂
gan	13 ¹ / ₂	14 ¹ / ₂
it.	6 ¹ / ₂	6 ¹ / ₂
	28 ¹ / ₂	28 ¹ / ₂
'A'	24	24 ¹ / ₂
ars	15	15 ¹ / ₂
	13 ¹ / ₂	13 ¹ / ₂
Stock split.		

Boycott's county future is in melting pot

By Keith Macklin

Events in South Africa are casting the long and shadowy future of the county cricket club. On Sunday the full Yorkshire general committee will meet for the long-awaited final act of deliberation on the proposals of the sub-committee which has been looking into the county's affairs.

Unavoidably, the flight to South Africa by Geoffrey Boycott and others has thrown a large new burden into an already troubled situation. The major point of discussion will be the future, if any, of Yorkshire County Cricket Club of Boycott, whose contract expires in September.

There are those prepared to argue that Boycott's future with Yorkshire is totally separate from the politically explosive doings of the so-called cricketing mercenaries in South Africa. Only a handful of people in Yorkshire hold this view; for many Yorkshire supporters, particularly those of the anti-Boycott lobby, his apparent defiance of the spirit and word of the Glencages Agreement is a further chapter in the recent history of his misdemeanours and errors of judgement.

The recommendation from the sub-committee is that Boycott should be allowed to leave the county on the expiry of his contract. There are several other recommendations but these pale into insignificance beside the Boycott affair, which has been festering since the side of Yorkshire cricket for several seasons.

The meeting is scheduled to start at Headingley at 10.30 on Sunday morning, and indications are that it will be long and torrid, as a press statement from the chairman, Michael Crawford, in late afternoon.

Since the recommendations of the sub-committee were leaked a fortnight ago, the Reform Group and other bodies have been supporting Boycott and hoping to sway members of the general committee to throw out the "let him go" proposal. One doctor on underestimates the strength of the pro-Boycott feeling, which has asserted itself



Autograph hunters: Taylor signs his name for a small boy, while Boycott (left) and Knott prefer to remain anonymous.

Australians to be invited

By Staff Reporters

At the Test and County Cricket Board meeting in London yesterday to debate the cricketing future of the 12 players in South Africa, it was reported in Melbourne that the Australian Cricket Board had agreed to invite the Australian and West Indian players to be invited to South Africa in October to play a benefit match for the opening of the new Test ground at Sydney.

There is a great deal of cynicism about these proposals, and a general feeling amongst county players that the sub-committee's report will get an extremely rough ride. Indeed, one man who spoke to the press said that the recommendations will be dismissed as a waste of everyone's time.

The Yorkshire Cricket Supporters' Association (the Reform Group) announced yesterday that they would oppose any recommendation unless there is a referendum among the members, the Press Association reports.

consent of the Australian Cricket Board. "If it was for Barry's testimonial, I'd like to go there and play. But I wouldn't do so without first seeking clearance from the Australian Cricket Board," he said.

The board later issued a statement saying it would neither endorse nor approve a cricket tour of South Africa and pointed out that the Australian Government had refused to grant visas to the players.

Chappell, the Australian captain, who is at present on tour in New Zealand, said he would like to play but only with the

fact that a recommendation will go to a full board meeting next Tuesday. However, some members of the board are already making preparations for the tour.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher again came under attack in the Commons when Labour MPs for the first time since the election of the Conservative Government demanded that she should "clear the air" and state whether or not she had endorsed Lord Carrington's criticism of the tour.

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Glencages Agreement

In view of the controversy over the unofficial cricket tour to South Africa, the Glencages Agreement, published in the Times after the Commonwealth Conference, is reproduced below.

The member countries of the Commonwealth, embracing peoples of diverse races, colours, languages and faiths, have long recognized racial prejudice and discrimination as a dangerous sickness and an unmitigated evil, and are pledged to use all their efforts to foster human dignity everywhere.

At their London meeting, the Heads of Government agreed that apartheid in sports, as in other fields, is an abomination and runs directly counter to the declaration of the United Nations Charter.

They made at Singapore, on January 22, 1971, an important means of dealing with and fostering understanding between the people, and especially between the young people, of the Commonwealth.

factors, sporting contacts between their nationals and the nationals of countries practicing apartheid in sport tend to encourage the belief (however unwarranted) that they are prepared to condone this abhorrent policy or are less than totally committed to the principles embodied in their Singapore Declaration.

Regretting past misunderstandings and difficulties and recognizing that these were partly the result of inadequate intergovernmental consultations, they agreed that they would seek to remedy this situation in the context of the increased level of understanding now achieved.

They resolved that their full support for the international campaign against apartheid and welcomed the efforts of the United Nations and other bodies to achieve this aim.

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taking every practical step to discourage, contact or competition by their nationals with sporting organizations, teams or sportsmen from South Africa or from any other country where sports are organized on the basis of race, colour or ethnic origin.

They fully acknowledged that it was for each Government to determine in accordance with its laws the methods by which it might best discharge these commitments.

Heads of Government specially welcomed the belief, unanimously expressed at their meeting, that in the light of their consultations and accord there was unlikely to be future sporting contacts of any significance between Commonwealth countries or their nationals and South Africa, while that country continues to pursue the deplorable policy of apartheid.

On that basis, and having regard to their commitments, they looked forward with satisfaction to the holding of the Commonwealth Games in Edmonton and to the Commonwealth Cup in cricket.

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Dyson the inspiration

Nelson, New Zealand, March 4

The Australian cricket team, led by Ian Chappell, won a 63-run victory over a combined Nelson-Marlborough team in a one-day match at Nelson on Wednesday.

Dyson, who batted 171 minutes and hit 13 fours and sixes, helped the touring team to a reasonable total of 105 for six.

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Faldo's ironmongery is equal to the task

From Mitchell Platts, Orlando, March 4

A prolonged spell on the United States golf tour is generally accepted by most players as a positive way to improve one's game. True, Peter Oosterhuis required seven years on the circuit before he claimed his first win in the Canadian Open last August, but he is now a more complete player and the improvement in Nicholas Faldo, who has played less than one hundred rounds on the tour, is a fair barometer by which to judge such a belief.

The £150,000 Pay Hill classic, which began one hour late today after a heavy downpour, Oosterhuis and Faldo returned first rounds of 70 and 72 respectively.

Nevertheless, moments when Oosterhuis and Faldo illustrated that their artillery is strongly enough equipped to handle the terrain of courses such as this 7,089 yards monster, Oosterhuis claims that the reason for his poor showing so far this season—he is a lowly 109th on the money list—is frustration on the putting greens. That was abundantly clear when he missed a long putt for birdie on the 14th and 15th, he missed more opportunities from inside eight feet.

Oosterhuis' superb long iron approaches to the well-guarded greens including a three iron to 20 feet on the 200 yards second hole which brought the first of his five birdies.

His most impressive shot was at the 14th, another par three (218 yards), where he struck a two iron with great authority and left the ball some 12 feet from the hole.

Faldo suffered an early setback as the heavens opened when he was at the 12th, he pushed his drive into trees and after coming out cleanly, struck a four-iron which left the ball plugged in a bunker. It added up to a side at this 568-yard par five but he underlined why he has been able to climb into thirty-third place on the US money list this year with two superb shots which both brought birdies.

At the 18th—his ninth hole because he had begun at the tenth—the ball strayed into the semi-rough after a slightly pushed drive but he selected a five-iron for a 191-yard shot to the green and left the ball only seven feet from the hole.

He showed even greater authority at the ninth when, from 185 yards, he struck a six-iron with a precision that the ball pitched less than six inches from the hole and finished only four feet away.

Oosterhuis (US money list: 109th) and Faldo (115th) were the only two players to score under par on the 14th and 15th, he missed more opportunities from inside eight feet.

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Smith runs to prove his fitness

Steve Smith, the England rugby captain, will play against Wales at Twickenham.

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Rugby Union

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Gloucester plan SA tour

Gloucester look set to enter the political row over sporting links with South Africa. The players and officials have agreed to attend a mini-tournament in Pretoria in May, providing the Rugby Union agrees to fund the tour.

The club has had verbal confirmation that the union do not object to the tour and written confirmation of this is being awaited. The final arrangements are made.

Even if the tour goes ahead, a Gloucester player, at unlikely to combine his playing with a change of job. His employers, the Gloucestershire County Council, have agreed to allow Parry to leave his job for two weeks of either with or without pay, and he has been warned if he goes he will be in breach of contract.

Bob Weight, secretary of the RFU, said yesterday: "We will believe we have no power to stop teams going to South Africa. All we can do is explain the Government attitude."

"We've had a series of meetings with Neil Macfarlane, a Gloucester player, and he is not keen on allowing people to go to South Africa but as the law of the land stands we cannot stop them."

The England full back, "Dusty" Hare, the world record points-scorer, is also scheduled to visit South Africa this year to take part in a golfing tournament.

Gloucester, already weakened by the loss of five internationals, have made two more changes to their squad for the tour. The players and officials have agreed to attend a mini-tournament in Pretoria in May, providing the Rugby Union agrees to fund the tour.

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Current Magic helps Abraham's reputation

Current Magic, the 12-year-old bay stallion by Current Cola out of the Autrore mare Phosphorescence, won the King George V Cup at the National Thoroughbred Stallion Show at the Hunters' Improvement Society at Park Padocks, Newmarket, yesterday.

He was judged to be the best of the year, the trophy he won previously in 1979.

Owned by Mrs. Abraham, whose stallion is now the most influential in the country, Current Magic was first champion here in 1978 by Graham Lloyd of Hay-on-Wye, to win the Macdonald-Buchanan Cup.

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Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Davalle

BBC 1

6.40 Open University: Eileen Barker Meets the Top Secret: 7.05 Ontario: 7.30 History of Maths: 8.00 For Schools: Colleges: Biology: Play Tennis (9.25): Look and Read (9.52): Religious, moral education (10.15): Exploring Science (10.58): Hymn of Praise (11.00): Going to Work (11.40): Plants in Action (12.05): 12.30 News: Afternoon: 1.00 Pobble Malt at One: Includes Peter Rabbit's weekly gardening item, and the Living with Leisure item (how to make the best use of your spare time, if any): 1.45 Bagpuss: 2.02 For Schools: Colleges: Scene After the Goldrush: at 2.35: A Good Job with Prospects (the winners): 3.00 Close-up: 3.20 Pobble Malt (for Welsh viewers): 3.55 Play School: Mary Dawson's story: 4.00 March Hare Handicap Hurdle Race. Commentary: Julian Wilson. John Hamner.

4.30 Captain Caveman cartoon: 4.30 Jackanory: Bernard Holey reads the final part of Joan Eadington's Jonny Briggs and the Giant Cave: 4.45 Finders Keepers: Battleships game, between Colneis County Junior School and Harestock County Junior School. The referee is Richard Silgao.

5.10 Grange Hill: Final episode. The end of term examination: 5.35 For the Engine (7.10): 5.40 News: With Richard Baker: 6.00 South East as Star: 6.22 Newsweek: Includes the first in a series of films about the working of the House of Lords. Peers are interviewed (See Choice). 6.45 Sportsworld, with Desmond Lynam.

7.00 Film: Mister Moses (1985) Wildlife adventure drama, shot in the Andes. A game reserve in Kenya. Robert Mitchell plays the quick doctor whose aid is enlisted by some villagers when they learn that their village is to be flooded. Co-starring Carroll Baker and Ian Baker. Co-written by Carroll Baker and Ian Baker.

8.50 Points of View: Barry Took comments on viewers' praise and scorn.

9.00 News: The reader is John Simpson. Also the week's weather prospects.

9.25 McClain's Law: Crime thriller series, with James Arness and Marshall-Copitt as the two police chums. Tonight: "A cap is freed" thanks to a smart lawyer. (Arness) finds himself facing a charge of brutality.

10.15 The Ian Woodbridge Interview: The journalist and broadcaster talks to Jeffrey Archer whose business life has been the subject of a new book. Tonight: "A cap is freed" thanks to a smart lawyer. (Arness) finds himself facing a charge of brutality.

10.45 News headlines. And weather forecast.

11.50 The Best in the Ballroom: This presentation of the Carl-Lane Awards at the London Lyceum. Demonstrations by some of the world's leading dancers. Ray Moore is the MC, and the entertainment is provided by jazz dancers, including Andy Norman and Bill Drysdale, and the Tunes.

11.55 Film: Don Candy's Law (1973) Canadian Mounted Police drama, with Donald Sutherland as the sergeant hunting for the Indian who killed his friend. Co-starring Kevin McCarthy, Francis Richette. Ends at 1.00 am.

BBC 2

6.40 Open University. Today's subjects are Life on Seashores (at 6.40); Ecology (7.05) and Statistics: First Ideas (7.30); Open University programmes end at 7.55; At 11.00: Play School: Mary Dawson's story: 11.40: Plants in Action (12.05): 12.30 News: Afternoon: 1.00 Pobble Malt at One: Includes Peter Rabbit's weekly gardening item, and the Living with Leisure item (how to make the best use of your spare time, if any): 1.45 Bagpuss: 2.02 For Schools: Colleges: Scene After the Goldrush: at 2.35: A Good Job with Prospects (the winners): 3.00 Close-up: 3.20 Pobble Malt (for Welsh viewers): 3.55 Play School: Mary Dawson's story: 4.00 March Hare Handicap Hurdle Race. Commentary: Julian Wilson. John Hamner.

4.15 Living on the Land: George Langford of Yorkshire's Brantham Park estate (7.10): 4.40 Around with Allister: Peter Allister talks to Bill McLaren and plays golf with him.

5.10 Score Reading: How to find your way through a musical score: 5.35 Weekend Outlook: Open University preview.

5.40 The Black Book: Includes the first in a series of films about the working of the House of Lords. Peers are interviewed (See Choice). 6.45 Sportsworld, with Desmond Lynam.

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ITV/LONDON

9.35 For Schools. Reading with Lenny: How we Used to Live (9.47): Numbers programme (10.09): Physics in Action (10.27): River Channel Forms (10.43): Hills and Hares? (11.05): The qualities (11.22): Wheelies and Sneezes (11.34): 11.55 Comic Stories: 12.00 Song Book: with Kathy Jones, Leo Cova, Meg Nichol: 12.10 Once Upon a Time: The Golden Goose. With Peter Dawson: 12.30 Second Thoughts: News series begins. Education Ideas: anyone, aged from 10 to 90: 1.00 News: 1.20 The News area: 1.30 Talk: the High Road: Trouble at the summit: 2.00 After Noon Plus: Facing the questions: Is Jo Grimond the former Liberal leader? 2.45 Snooker: More play in the Yamaha Organs Trophy (more at 11.00 pm).

4.15 Dr Snuggles: the inventor with Peter Ustinov's voice: 4.20 Bazzamazz: Pop music show. With Gino, Gary Numan, Brendan Healey and the Helen Sisters.

4.45 The Haunting of Castle Palmer: Episode 2. The medium's daughter (Helen Probyn) pays a visit to a graveyard. She meets a stranger there (Geoffrey Rose).

5.15 Square One: The Joe Brown big board game. With Suzi Quatro and Simon Bates. News: 6.00 The 6 o'Clock Show: Amusing news stories. The host is Michael Aspel.

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Britain's EEC bill set to reach £540m

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

EEC membership is likely to cost Britain some £540m in 1982, according to Treasury estimates, unless a restructuring of the community budget is agreed quickly.

This figure is the basis of the case for a final settlement of the problem of the budget's imbalance to be put to the European Council by the Prime Minister at the end of this month.

Mrs Thatcher is likely to have a double difficulty. There will be resistance to the merits of the British case, since eight member countries are not beneficiaries of the present system, with West Germany the only other net contributor. And the Treasury figures like all forecasts, are highly debatable.

Britain's net contribution in 1982 was given as £522m in a White Paper published yesterday. Gross contributions were estimated at £2,667m and receipts at £2,045m, including the 506m rebate on Britain's 1982 contributions which the Common Public Accounts Committee requires to be included in the year it is received.

The net figure was at once revised downwards by some £30m to £540m—by Treasury sources who explained that extra repayments were expected which had not been allowed for.

If the budget is not restructured, the compensation formula for Britain which was agreed two years ago will apply in 1982, for the third successive year. It is likely to yield according to the Treasury's best estimate.

Another reason for scepticism in the community about the British case is the fact that Britain's deficit in 1981 has proved to be much smaller than expected.

The agreement reached in May, 1980, expected Britain to show a "loss" of about £440m in its dealings with the community. The latest Treasury estimate is between £55m and £155m.

Whitehall insists that this is for special reasons that will not recur; higher world food prices, which reduced the cost of EEC export subsidies, the unexpectedly high value of sterling last year, and Britain's unexpectedly high share of ordinary receipts from the community.

In law some women are more equal than others

From Ian Murray, Brussels, March 4

Sex discrimination against men is one of the reasons that Britain is to be taken before the European Court for failing to bring its laws in line with EEC legislation.

Along with Belgium and Italy, Britain is in the first group of countries to be prosecuted for refusing to alter its legislation on equal rights.

One of the main complaints is that Britain refuses to accept male midwives, and if the European Court were to agree, it would mean that the profession would have to be opened to men.

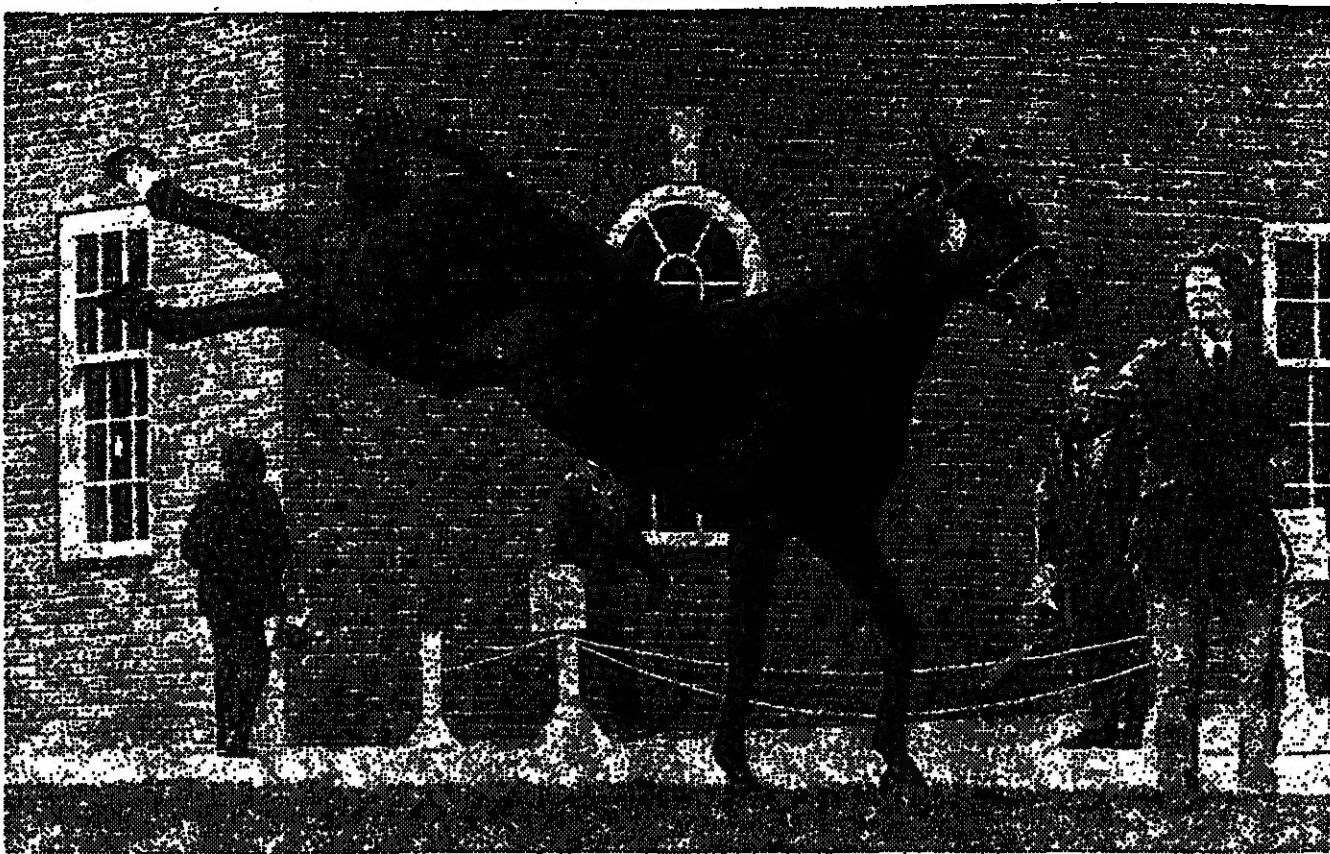
The European Commission decided to bring the case against Britain because, in a number of areas, the Sex Discrimination Act of 1975 failed to match up to the European requirements on equal treatment agreed in 1976.

Britain was told in July, 1980, that it was not complying with the EEC directive, and last October it was sent a reasoned opinion requiring a justification for its failure to comply.

The British response was a strong defence of its existing legislation and the point at issue. According to the Commission: "If anything the British position hardened so there was no alternative but to bring the prosecution."

The main point at issue is that British law does not specifically require all trade union agreements to respect the principle of equal treatment of men and women.

Kick-back for the judges



Brian Harris

Laker loses his free air travel privilege

By John Withers

London agreed to allow him to fly free of charge.

British Airways said yesterday: "There is no reason to suppose he will ask for, or will be granted, this facility again."

Sir Freddie Laker, who, as head of Laker Airways, has travelled to and from the United States free of charge, is to have his entitlement to free travel stopped by British Airways.

The decision was made after Sir Freddie returned first class from Miami on Tuesday while passengers stranded by the collapse of his airline a month ago travelled in the economy section of the same aircraft at an extra cost of £150 each.

Sir Freddie's entitlement to a free ticket is a reciprocal arrangement offered to the heads of airlines; the facility is being withdrawn because he is no longer in charge of one.

When he approached the British Airways station manager at Miami earlier this week, Sir Freddie was sent back and forth across the Atlantic before the airline's head office in London agreed to allow him to fly free of charge.

British Airways said yesterday: "There is no reason to suppose he will ask for, or will be granted, this facility again."

Sir Freddie has also flown first class to Los Angeles free of charge with Pan American since the collapse of Laker Airways. Pan Am would not say yesterday whether it intended to withdraw his free travel.

British Caledonian and TWA indicated, however, that they would be taking the same line as British Airways.

British Caledonian appealed directly to the Prime Minister yesterday after the Civil Aviation Authority's refusal to grant it a "quickie" right to take over Laker's share of the British to Los Angeles route (our Transport Correspondent writes).

Frank Johnson in the Commons

Howell has been playing an away fixture too

Mr John Carlisle (Luton West, Con) managed to draw the House's attention yesterday to the suggestion that Mr Denis Howell, the Labour spokesman on sport, has been on a football tour of the Soviet Union through it all—the "all" being the cricket tour of South Africa.

Mr Carlisle said other prominent backbenchers such as Mr Nicholas Winterton (Macclesfield, Con) and Mr Tony Marlow (Northampton North, Con) have been trying to introduce this priceless, immortal piece of information into the Commons uproar all week. But such are the rules of order and the haphazard way in which details get into Commons exchanges it sometimes takes days for the rest of us to grasp a point.

"Where's Denis Howell?" these useful Tory brutes have been crying to no effect for some time. Still more obscurely, Mr Winterton demanded from the sedentary position at one stage earlier in the week: "Tell us about Aston Villa." (Only now do most of us realize that Mr Howell is apparently visiting the Soviet Union with that famous football club, the Shadow Minister for Sport being a Birmingham member.)

The Labour benches have been in a moralistic trance all week ever since Mr Gerald Kaufman launched the uproar with his memorably awful phrase about cricketers "selling themselves for blood-covered kruggerands."

And all the while Mr Howell was travelling amicably in a land which practices several forms of separate development, not least that between the rulers and the rest of the population. Are the Villa getting a share of the gate? Has Mr Howell drunk so much as one pint of free vodka?

Enormously heartened by Mr Howell's own goal, the Tory backbench hard types nodded with approval through another classical Thatcher imitations yesterday on the issue of the tour. The very first question was on the subject. Mr Jack Straw (Blackburn, Lab) denounced her previous "moody, misty" and "half-hearted" batting on the issue: a reference to her memorable overnight stand at question time last Tuesday. Did she now condemn the tour, he demanded. "Yes or no?" The Prime Minister replied that she stood by "the Gleneagles agreement." This has been her tactic throughout the bowling for hardly anyone can remember what the Gleneagles agreement was. But by yesterday she had become hampered by an irritatingly unequivocal condemnation of the tour by Lord Carrington, the regime's veritable Foreign Secretary. So yesterday she went on to say she shared the opinion of Lord Carrington that "this tour is perhaps a mistake." (Actually he put it rather more strongly than that.) Mrs Thatcher almost mumbled those words.

It is clear that she hates the whole controversy. Labour started raging. The loyal Sir William Clark (Croydon South, Con) tried to change the subject. Mr Foot rose. "To return to the cricket tour," he began and rambled into a question which contained the prying phrase: "Does the Right Hon lady agree with the Foreign Secretary, the correct answer to which is: very rarely." The Right Hon Gentleman cannot have been listening," she told Mr Foot, assuming a world-weary air.

"I endorsed the Foreign Secretary on this matter in my last reply," which really she had not said. Suddenly, Mr Winston Churchill (Stretford, Con) boomed in with a barrage of balloons of loyalty consisting of: "May I congratulate the Prime Minister on taking the initiative among oil-producing nations to procure a sharp downward trend in oil prices? This provides not only Great Britain, but the industrialized world with the opportunity to break into what Iain Macleod called the virtuous circle in which... There was almost no end to this tremendous conversation stopper.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

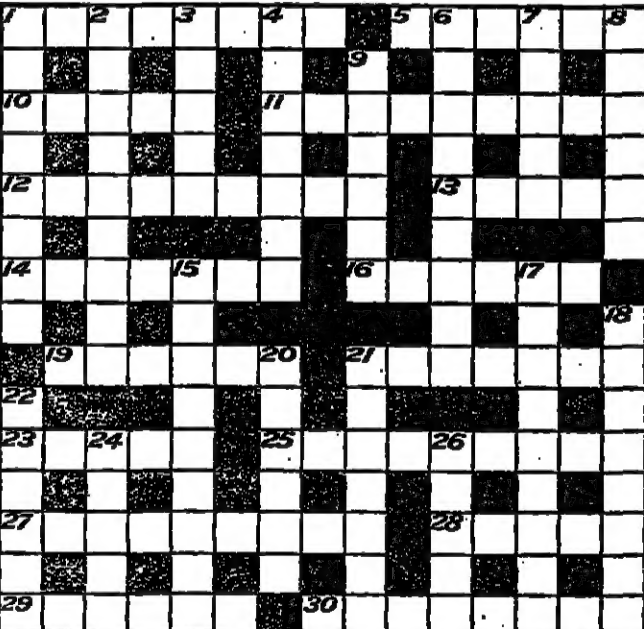
Today's events

Royal engagements
The Prince of Wales attends a ceremony to commemorate the diamond jubilee of the Commonwealth Forestry Association at Westonbirt Arboretum, Gloucestershire, 3.

New exhibitions
Nanny Mulder: Mezzotints, and Sky tells by Jenny Cowen: Crawford Centre for Arts, University of St Andrews, Scotland, Mon to Sat 10 to 5; Sun 2 to 5; (until March 28).

John Ruskin: an exhibition of drawings and watercolours, Whitworth Art Gallery, University of Manchester, Whitworth Park, Manchester; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Thursday until 9; (until May 3).

The Times Crossword Puzzle No. 15,772



- ACROSS**
- Do as Browning did taking writer as true wife (8).
 - Eavesdropping below zero? (6).
 - Charlie taking pub in New York (5).
 - Cleric embraces brother installed at Hermonceux? (9).
 - He goes to battle to command—should do the trick! (3,6).
 - Deposit for cottage (5).
 - Change round to sounding pompous (7).
 - A body's design to speed retirement (6).
 - Workplace for boss at Number Ten (6).
 - Appearance money her reward in the theatre? (7).
 - Return to her or someone else (5).
 - Re-dial to get old military command (5,4).
 - Rose's companion (9).
 - So many corner-pieces in the cube (5).
 - Races at all these, anyhow (6).
 - Regular correspondence between sides (8).
- DOWN**
- Big cat depicted tailless on old temple (8).
 - Nurse has go at making butter (5,4).
 - A better sort of cake (5).
 - Read by custom on first of December (7).
 - Sweet affinity of Corday and Currier (9).
- Prize Crossword in The Times tomorrow**

Solution of Puzzle No 15,771



Top 10 films

- The top five films in London:
1. Reds
 2. Absence of Malice
 3. Death Wish II
 4. Halloween II
 5. Arthur
- The top five in the provinces:
1. Backroads and Broomsticks
 2. Condorman
 3. Water Babies
 4. Monty Python's Life of Brian
 5. Sleeping Beauty
- Compiled by Screen International

The Pound

	Bank	Bank
	buys	sells
Australia \$	1.77	1.79
Canada \$	1.25	1.27
Denmark Kr	8.75	8.85
France F	2.30	2.32
Germany DM	1.32	1.34
Hong Kong \$	8.60	8.65
Italy Lira	11.48	11.58
Japan Yen	4.51	4.56
Netherlands Gld	1.15	1.16
Portugal Esc	12.12	12.18
Spain Ptas	167.50	168.50
Sweden Kr	1.32	1.34
Switzerland Fr	1.58	1.61
USA \$	1.58	1.61

Gardens open

TOMORROW: Sussex West: Berri Court, Yaxton, five miles sw of Arundel; three-acre garden, shrubs, herbaceous, and trees, 11. **SUNDAY: Berkshire:** The Coach House, Horse Leas, Bradfield, seven miles w of Reading; interesting and difficult garden on north facing slope and heavy clay. Plants for sale, 2-6 pm. **Essex:** Chertons Cottage, Chertons, three miles s of Alresford; two-acre garden, trees, shrubs, chalk stream, 2-6 pm. **Somerset:** Clapton Court, three miles s of Crewkerne on B3165, 10 acres, unusual trees, shrubs, etc. Plants for sale, 2-5 pm; also every day except Saturdays, 10-5 pm. **Renfrewshire:** Auchengrange, Lochwinnoch, Renfrewshire; woodland carpeted with snowdrops; produce stall, 2-5.30 pm. **MONDAY: Gloucestershire:** The Old Manor, Twyning, near Tewkesbury. Over one-acre garden, trees, shrubs, herbaceous and alpine plants. Plants for sale. Every Monday 2-6 pm or dusk. **Saturday appointment:** (Tewkesbury 293216). No Sundays.

The papers

The Daily Mirror today compares the "lad's army," the new adventure training scheme for young people, launched by Mr John Nott, the Secretary of State for Defence, with what it calls his new version of Dad's Army.

The Government wants to recruit 4,500 men to defend 1,000 key installations for capture by Soviet assault troops. That is an average of 44 men to beat off each attack. It should be quite a fight," it writes.

In Paris, Le Monde announces that France will produce its own neutron bomb and says President Mitterrand only waits for an opportunity to "which virtually has already been taken."

Commenting on the French government decision to lower petrol prices, Le Monde calls it "an electoral ploy which risks to give the death stroke to the refining industry."

Sporting fixtures

Football: See Page 19.
Racing: Newbury (2.0), Haydock Park (1.45).
Boxing: Oxford University v Cambridge University (Oxford Town Hall, 8.0).
Snooker: Yamaha Organs Tournament (Derby).
Squash: ISPA championship (Aldersley, Sheffield, 5.0).

Sport on TV

EEC: 2.15, racing from Newbury.
ITV: 2.45, Snooker—Yamaha Organs Trophy; 11.00, Snooker—Yamaha Organs Trophy.

Auctions today

Christie's, King Street: Fine English pictures of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, 10.30. Christie's, South Kensington: Printed books, atlases and maps, 10.30; old and modern silver, 2. Phillips, St. James's Street: Silver and plates, 11. Sotheby's, Bond Street: Carpets, 10; English furniture, 11.

Bond winners

Winning numbers in the March draw for £10,000 Premium Bond prizes are: 7AN 620751 (winner lives in Berkshire); 47B 02163 (Norfolk); 11TS 48043 (Hertfordshire); 20VT 70633 (Essex); 3YT 95018 (Leeds).

Today's anniversaries

Giovanni Tiepolo was born in Venice, 1696; Austen Henry Layard, excavator of Nineveh, in Paris, 1817; William Henry Beveridge, in Rangoon, India, 1879; Correggio died at Correggio, 1534, and Thomas Arne in London, 1778.

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Private members' motions on unemployment in Kent and on test-tube babies.

Weather

A ridge of high pressure will move steadily across Britain as a trough of low pressure advances from the W.

6 am to midnight

London, SE England, East Angles: First early drizzle, sun intervals becoming cloudy later; winds variable light becoming SW light to moderate; max temp 9C (48F).

SE Wales, SW England, East Angles: First early drizzle, sun intervals becoming cloudy later; winds variable light becoming SW light to moderate; max temp 9C (48F).

SE Wales, SW England, East Angles: First early drizzle, sun intervals becoming cloudy later; winds variable light becoming SW light to moderate; max temp 9C (48F).

SE Wales, SW England, East Angles: First early drizzle, sun intervals becoming cloudy later; winds variable light becoming SW light to moderate; max temp 9C (48F).

Lighting up time

London 6.17 pm to 6.06 am
Bristol 6.27 pm to 6.17 am
Edinburgh 6.25 pm to 6.23 am
Manchester 6.24 pm to 6.16 am
Plymouth 6.40 pm to 6.26 am

Highest and lowest

Highest day temp: York 15C, Southport 12C (54F). Lowest day temp: Lowest 4C (39F). Highest rainfall: Farnley 0.5in. Highest sunshine: Glasgow 9.3h.

Satellite predictions

Figures show time of visibility, wind, maximum elevation, and direction of setting. Asterisk denotes entering or leaving eclipse.

MANCHESTER: Cases 1518 (March 6) 5.27-5.30 SW, 1530 SW, 1535 SW, 1540 SW, 1545 SW, 1550 SW, 1555 SW, 1600 SW, 1605 SW, 1610 SW, 1615 SW, 1620 SW, 1625 SW, 1630 SW, 1635 SW, 1640 SW, 1645 SW, 1650 SW, 1655 SW, 1700 SW, 1705 SW, 1710 SW, 1715 SW, 1720 SW, 1725 SW, 1730 SW, 1735 SW, 1740 SW, 1745 SW, 1750 SW, 1755 SW, 1800 SW, 1805 SW, 1810 SW, 1815 SW, 1820 SW, 1825 SW, 1830 SW, 1835 SW, 1840 SW, 1845 SW, 1850 SW, 1855 SW, 1900 SW, 1905 SW, 1910 SW, 1915 SW, 1920 SW, 1925 SW, 1930 SW, 1935 SW, 1940 SW, 1945 SW, 1950 SW, 1955 SW, 2000 SW, 2005 SW, 2010 SW, 2015 SW, 2020 SW, 2025 SW, 2030 SW, 2035 SW, 2040 SW, 2045 SW, 2050 SW, 2055 SW, 2100 SW, 2105 SW, 2110 SW, 2115 SW, 2120 SW, 2125 SW, 2130 SW, 2135 SW, 2140 SW, 2145 SW, 2150 SW, 2155 SW, 2200 SW, 2205 SW, 2210 SW, 2215 SW, 2220 SW, 2225 SW, 2230 SW, 2235 SW, 2240 SW, 2245 SW, 2250 SW, 2255 SW, 2300 SW, 2305 SW, 2310 SW, 2315 SW, 2320 SW, 2325 SW, 2330 SW, 2335 SW, 2340 SW, 2345 SW, 2350 SW, 2355 SW, 2400 SW, 2405 SW, 2410 SW, 2415 SW, 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